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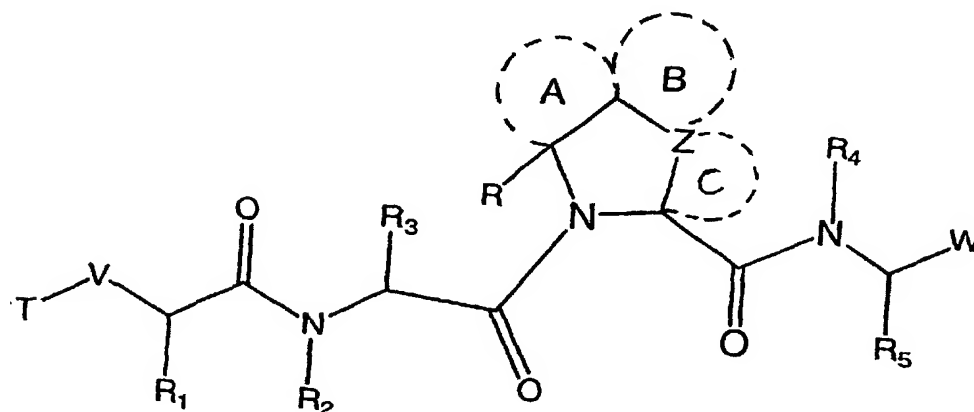
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: INHIBITORS OF SERINE PROTEASE, PARTICULARLY HEPATITIS C VIRUS NS3-NS4A PROTEASE, INCORPORATING A FUSED RING SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to peptidomimetic compounds that inhibit serine protease activity, particularly the activity of hepatitis C virus NS3-NS4A protease. As such, they act by interfering with the life cycle of the hepatitis C virus and are also useful as antiviral agents. The invention further relates to compositions comprising these compounds either for *ex vivo* use or for administration to a patient suffering from HCV infection. The invention also relates to methods of treating an HCV infection in a patient by administering a composition comprising a compound of this invention.



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**Declaration under Rule 4.17:**

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INHIBITORS OF SERINE PROTEASES, PARTICULARLY HEPATITIS C VIRUS NS3-NS4A
PROTEASE, INCORPORATING A FUSED RING SYSTEM

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This application claims priority to United States
Provisional Patent Application 60/343,862 filed October
24, 2001.

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TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to peptidomimetic
compounds that inhibit serine protease activity,
particularly the activity of hepatitis C virus NS3-NS4A
protease. As such, they act by interfering with the life
15 cycle of the hepatitis C virus and are also useful as
antiviral agents. The invention further relates to
compositions comprising these compounds either for ex
vivo use or for administration to a patient suffering
from HCV infection. The invention also relates to
20 methods of treating an HCV infection in a patient by
administering a composition comprising a compound of this
invention.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

25

Infection by hepatitis C virus ("HCV") is a
compelling human medical problem. HCV is recognized as
the causative agent for most cases of non-A, non-B
hepatitis, with an estimated human sero-prevalence of 3%
globally [A. Alberti et al., "Natural History of
30 Hepatitis C," J. Hepatology, 31., (Suppl. 1), pp. 17-24
(1999)]. Nearly four million individuals may be infected
in the United States alone [M.J. Alter et al., "The
Epidemiology of Viral Hepatitis in the United States,
Gastroenterol. Clin. North Am., 23, pp. 437-455 (1994);

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M. J. Alter "Hepatitis C Virus Infection in the United States," J. Hepatology, 31., (Suppl. 1), pp. 88-91 (1999)].

5 Upon first exposure to HCV only about 20% of infected individuals develop acute clinical hepatitis while others appear to resolve the infection spontaneously. In almost 70% of instances, however, the virus establishes a chronic infection that persists for decades [S. Iwarson, "The Natural Course of Chronic
10 Hepatitis," FEMS Microbiology Reviews, 14, pp. 201-204 (1994); D. Lavanchy, "Global Surveillance and Control of Hepatitis C," J. Viral Hepatitis, 6, pp. 35-47 (1999)]. This usually results in recurrent and progressively worsening liver inflammation, which often leads to more
15 severe disease states such as cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma [M.C. Kew, "Hepatitis C and Hepatocellular Carcinoma", FEMS Microbiology Reviews, 14, pp. 211-220 (1994); I. Saito et. al., "Hepatitis C Virus Infection is Associated with the Development of
20 Hepatocellular Carcinoma," Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 87, pp. 6547-6549 (1990)]. Unfortunately, there are no broadly effective treatments for the debilitating progression of chronic HCV.

The HCV genome encodes a polyprotein of 3010-
25 3033 amino acids [Q.L. Choo, et al., "Genetic Organization and Diversity of the Hepatitis C Virus." Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 88, pp. 2451-2455 (1991); N. Kato et al., "Molecular Cloning of the Human Hepatitis C Virus Genome From Japanese Patients with Non-A, Non-B
30 Hepatitis," Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 87, pp. 9524-9528 (1990); A. Takamizawa et al., "Structure and Organization of the Hepatitis C Virus Genome Isolated From Human

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Carriers," J. Virol., 65, pp. 1105-1113 (1991)]. The HCV nonstructural (NS) proteins are presumed to provide the essential catalytic machinery for viral replication. The NS proteins are derived by proteolytic cleavage of the polyprotein [R. Bartenschlager et al., "Nonstructural Protein 3 of the Hepatitis C Virus Encodes a Serine-Type Proteinase Required for Cleavage at the NS3/4 and NS4/5 Junctions," J. Virol., 67, pp. 3835-3844 (1993); A. Grakoui et al., "Characterization of the Hepatitis C Virus-Encoded Serine Proteinase: Determination of Proteinase-Dependent Polyprotein Cleavage Sites," J. Virol., 67, pp. 2832-2843 (1993); A. Grakoui et al., "Expression and Identification of Hepatitis C Virus Polyprotein Cleavage Products," J. Virol., 67, pp. 1385-1395 (1993); L. Tomei et al., "NS3 is a serine protease required for processing of hepatitis C virus polyprotein", J. Virol., 67, pp. 4017-4026 (1993)].

The HCV NS protein 3 (NS3) contains a serine protease activity that helps process the majority of the viral enzymes, and is thus considered essential for viral replication and infectivity. It is known that mutations in the yellow fever virus NS3 protease decreases viral infectivity [Chambers, T.J. et al., "Evidence that the N-terminal Domain of Nonstructural Protein NS3 From Yellow Fever Virus is a Serine Protease Responsible for Site-Specific Cleavages in the Viral Polyprotein", Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 87, pp. 8898-8902 (1990)]. The first 181 amino acids of NS3 (residues 1027-1207 of the viral polyprotein) have been shown to contain the serine protease domain of NS3 that processes all four downstream sites of the HCV polyprotein [C. Lin et al., "Hepatitis C Virus NS3 Serine Proteinase: *Trans*-Cleavage

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Requirements and Processing Kinetics", J. Virol., 68, pp. 8147-8157 (1994)].

5 The HCV NS3 serine protease and its associated cofactor, NS4A, helps process all of the viral enzymes, and is thus considered essential for viral replication. This processing appears to be analogous to that carried out by the human immunodeficiency virus aspartyl protease, which is also involved in viral enzyme processing HIV protease inhibitors, which inhibit viral protein processing are potent antiviral agents in man, 10 indicating that interrupting this stage of the viral life cycle results in therapeutically active agents. Consequently it is an attractive target for drug discovery.

15 Several potential HCV protease inhibitors have been described in the prior art [PCT publication Nos. WO 00/09558, WO 00/09543, WO 99/64442, WO 99/07733, WO 99/07734, WO 99/50230, WO 98/46630, WO 98/17679 and WO 97/43310, United States Patent 5,990,276, M. Llinas-Brunet et al., Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett., 8, pp. 1713-18 (1998); W. Han et al., Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett., 10, 711-13 (2000); R. Dunsdon et al., Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett., 10, pp. 1571-79 (2000); M. Llinas-Brunet et al., Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett., 10, pp. 2267-70 (2000); and S. LaPlante 20 et al., Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett., 10, pp. 2271-74 (2000)]. Unfortunately, there are no serine protease inhibitors available currently as anti-HCV agents.

Furthermore, the current understanding of HCV has not led to any other satisfactory anti-HCV agents or 30 treatments. The only established therapy for HCV disease is interferon treatment. However, interferons have significant side effects [M. A. Wlaker et al., "Hepatitis

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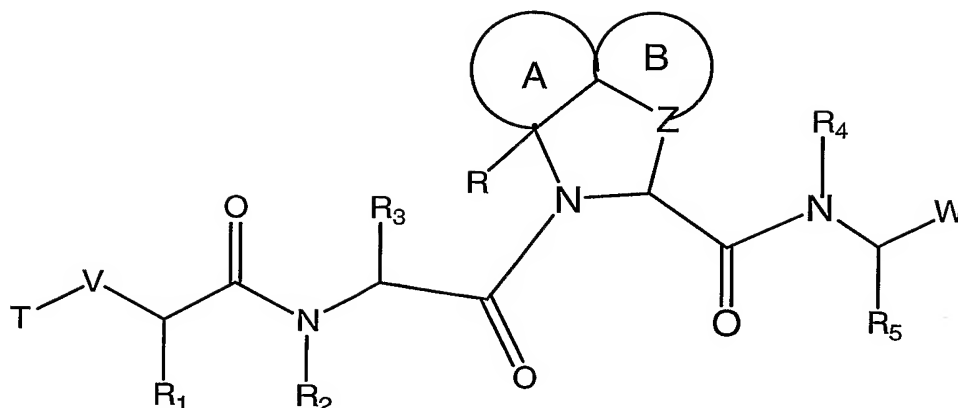
C Virus: An Overview of Current Approaches and Progress," DDT, 4, pp. 518-29 (1999); D. Moradpour et al., "Current and Evolving Therapies for Hepatitis C," Eur. J. Gastroenterol. Hepatol., 11, pp. 1199-1202 (1999); H. L. A. Janssen et al. "Suicide Associated with Alfa-Interferon Therapy for Chronic Viral Hepatitis," J. Hepatol., 21, pp. 241-243 (1994); P.F. Renault et al., "Side Effects of Alpha Interferon," Seminars in Liver Disease, 9, pp. 273-277. (1989)] and induce long term remission in only a fraction (~ 25%) of cases [O. Weiland, "Interferon Therapy in Chronic Hepatitis C Virus Infection" , FEMS Microbiol. Rev., 14, pp. 279-288 (1994)]. Moreover, the prospects for effective anti-HCV vaccines remain uncertain.

Thus, there is a need for more effective anti-HCV therapies. Such inhibitors would have therapeutic potential as protease inhibitors, particularly as serine protease inhibitors, and more particularly as HCV NS3 protease inhibitors. Specifically, such compounds may be useful as antiviral agents, particularly as anti-HCV agents.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides a compound of formula (I):

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(I)

wherein:

ring A is a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring,
 5 wherein ring A is optionally fused to a carbocyclic, heterocyclic or heteroaryl ring;

wherein ring A has up to 3 substituents selected independently from J;

ring B is a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring,
 10 wherein ring B is optionally fused to a carbocyclic, heterocyclic or heteroaryl ring;

wherein ring B has up to 3 substituents selected independently from J;

J is halogen, -OR', -NO₂, -CF₃, -OCF₃, -R', oxo, -O-
 15 benzyl, -O-phenyl, 1,2-methylenedioxy, 1,2-ethylenedioxy, -N(R')₂, -SR', -SOR', -SO₂R', -C(O)R', -COOR' or -CON(R')₂, -OC(O)R' wherein R' is independently selected from:

hydrogen,
 20 (C1-C12)-aliphatic,
 (C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,
 (C1-C12)-aliphatic-
 [(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],
 (C6-C10)-aryl,

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(C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12) aliphatic,
(C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,
(C6-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12) aliphatic,
(C5-C10)-heteroaryl, or
5 (C5-C10)-heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic;

R₁ and R₃ are independently:

(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,
(C1-C12)-aliphatic-

10 [(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],
(C6-C10)-aryl,
(C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12) aliphatic,
(C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,
(C6-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12) aliphatic,

15 (C5-C10)-heteroaryl, or
(C5-C10)-heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

wherein each of R₁ and R₃ is independently and
optionally substituted with up to 3

substituents independently selected from J;

20 wherein up to 3 aliphatic carbon atoms in R₁ and
R₃ may be replaced by a heteroatom selected from
O, NH, S, SO, or SO₂ in a chemically stable
arrangement;

R₂ and R₄ are independently

25 hydrogen,
(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic, or
(C6-C10)aryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

wherein each of R₂ and R₄ is independently and

30 optionally substituted with up to 3
substituents independently selected from J;

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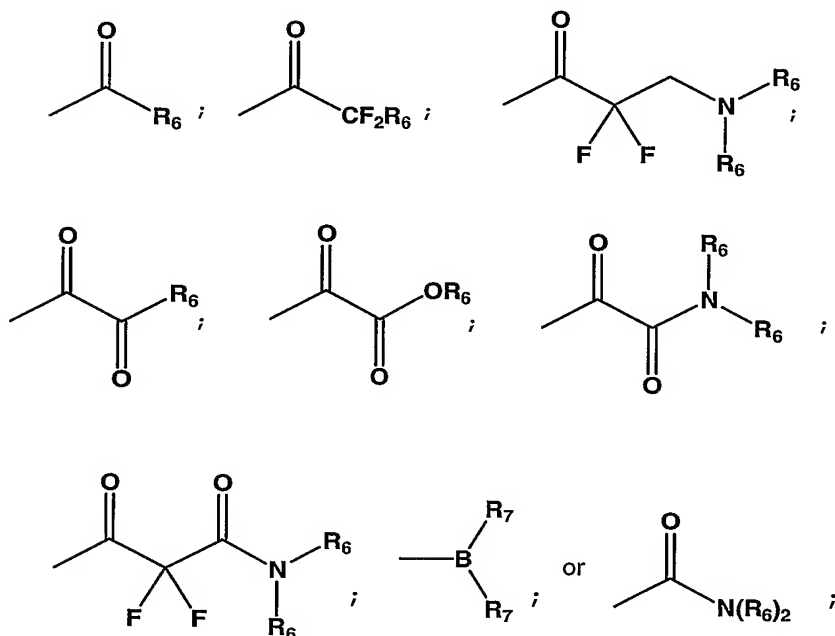
wherein up to two aliphatic carbon atoms in R_2 and R_4 may be replaced by a heteroatom selected from O, NH, S, SO, or SO_2 in a chemically stable arrangement;

5 Z is a carbon atom, -CHR-N-, -HN-CR- or -CHR-CHR-,
-O-CHR-, -S-CHR-, -SO-CHR-, - SO_2 -CHR-, or -N-;

wherein R is aliphatic, aryl, aralkyl or cycloalkyl;

R_5 is -(C1-C12) aliphatic, wherein any hydrogen is
optionally substituted with halogen, and wherein any
10 hydrogen or halogen atom bound to any terminal carbon
atom of R_5 is optionally substituted with sulfhydryl or
hydroxy;

W is selected from: -C(O)OH;



15 wherein each R_6 is independently:

hydrogen,

(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

(C1-C12)-aliphatic-

[(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],

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(C6-C10)-aryl,
 (C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12) aliphatic,
 (C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,
 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,
 5 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
 (C5-C10)heteroaryl, or
 (C5-C10)heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic, or
 two R₆ groups, which are bound to the same nitrogen
 atom, form together with that nitrogen atom, a (C3-C10)-
 10 heterocyclic ring;

wherein R₆ is optionally substituted with up to 3 J
 substituents;

each R₇ is hydroxy, alkoxy, or aryloxy; or
 each R₇ is an oxygen atom linked to an aliphatic
 15 group and, together with the boron to which they are each
 bound, the two R₇ groups form a 3-6 membered ring;

V is a bond, -CH(R₈)-, -N(R₈)-, -O-, -O-CH(R₈)-,
 -CH(R₈)-O-, -S-, -S-CH(R₈)-, -CH(R₈)-S-, -C(O)-, -C(O)-O-,
 -O-C(O)-, -C(O)-S-, -S-C(O)-, -C(O)-CHR₈-, -CHR₈-C(O)-
 20 -N(R₈)C(O)-, -C(O)N(R₈)-, -S(O)-, -S(O)-CH(R₈), -CH(R₈)-
 S(O)-, -S(O)N(R₈)-, -N(R₈)S(O)-, -S(O)-N(R₈)-CH(R₈)-,
 -CH(R₈)-N(R₈)-S(O)-, -N(R₈)-S(O)-CH(R₈)-, -CH(R₈)-S(O)-
 N(R₈)-, -CH(R₈)-S(O)₂-, -S(O)₂-CH(R₈)-, -S(O)₂N(R₈)-,
 -N(R₈)-S(O)₂-, -S(O)₂-N(R₈)-CHR₈-, -CHR₈-N(R₈)-S(O)₂-,
 25 -N(R₈)-S(O)₂-CHR₈ or -CH(R₈)-S(O)₂-N(R₈)-;

wherein R₈ is hydrogen or (C1-C12)-aliphatic;

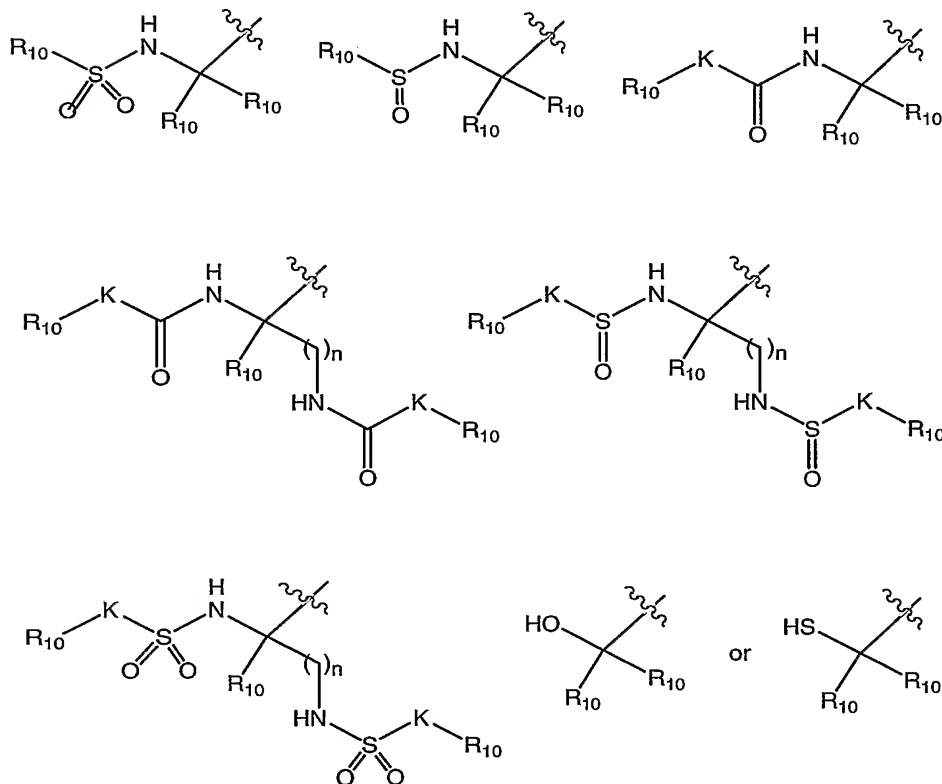
T is selected from:

(C6-C10)-aryl,
 (C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12) aliphatic,
 30 (C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,
 (C1-C12)-aliphatic-
 [(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],

- 10 -

(C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,
 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
 (C5-C10)heteroaryl, or
 (C5-C10)heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic; or

5 T is selected from:



wherein:

R₁₀ is:

hydrogen,
 10 (C1-C12)-aliphatic,
 (C1-C12)-aliphatic-
 [(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],
 (C6-C10)-aryl,
 (C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,
 15 (C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,
 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,

(C3-C10)-heterocyclyl- (C1-C12)-aliphatic,

(C5-C10)-heteroaryl, or

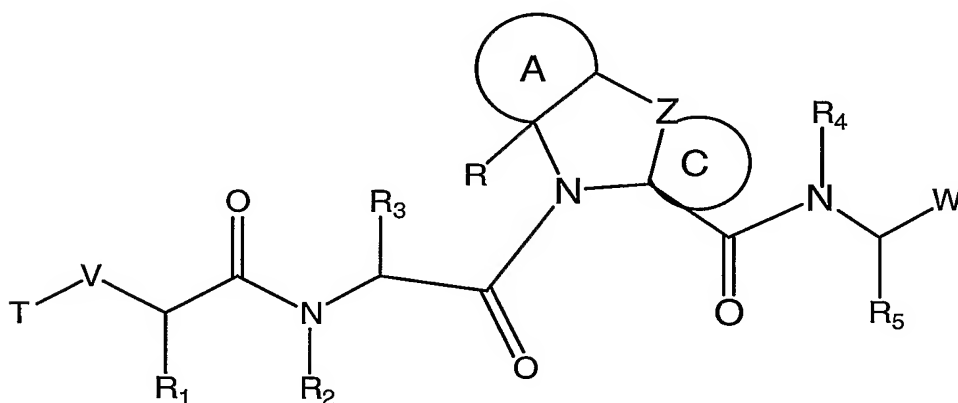
(C5-C10)-heteroaryl- (C1-C12)-aliphatic,

wherein each T is optionally substituted with up to
5 3 J substituents;

K is a bond, (C1-C12)-aliphatic, -O-, -S-, -NR₉-, -C(O)-, or -C(O)-NR₉-, wherein R₉ is hydrogen or (C1-C12)-aliphatic; and

n is 1-3.

10 The present invention also provides a compound
of formula (II):



wherein:

15 T, V, R, R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅, Z and W are as defined
above for compounds of formula (I);

ring A is a carbocyclic, heteroaryl or heterocyclic ring, wherein ring A is optionally fused to an carbocyclic, heterocyclic or heteroaryl ring;

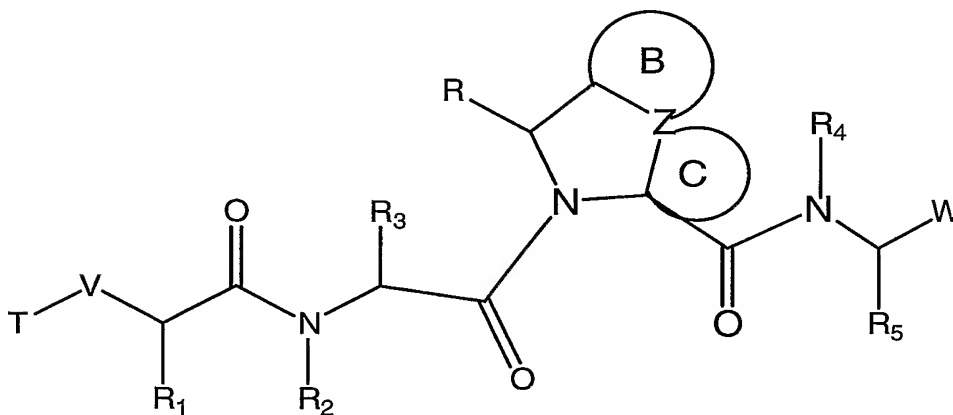
20 wherein ring A has up to 4 substituents selected
independently from J;

ring C is a cycloalkyl or heterocyclic ring; and

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wherein ring C has up to 3 substituents selected independently from J; wherein J is as defined above for compounds of formula (I).

The present invention also provides a compound
5 of formula (III):



(III)

wherein:

T, V, R, R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅, Z and W are as defined
10 above for compounds of formula (I);

ring B is a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring,
wherein ring B is optionally fused to a carbocyclic,
heterocyclic or heteroaryl ring;

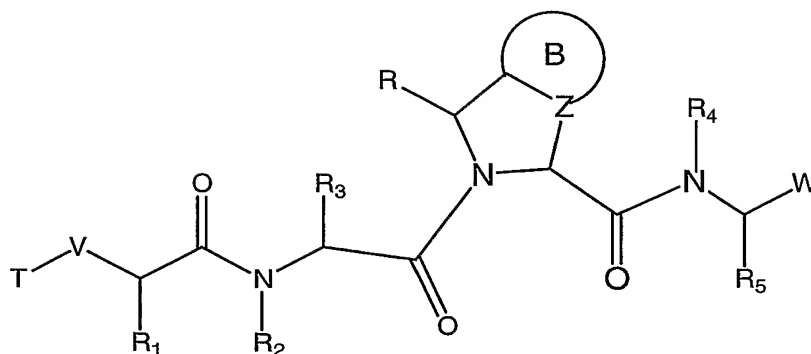
wherein ring B has up to 3 substituents selected
15 independently from J;

ring C is a cycloalkyl or heterocyclic ring; and

wherein ring C has up to 3 substituents selected
independently from J; wherein J is as defined above for
compounds of formula (I).

20 The present invention also provides a compound
of formula (IV):

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(IV)

wherein:

T, V, R, R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅, Z and W are as defined
 5 above for compounds of formula (I);

ring B is a bridged bicyclic ring system containing
 6-12 carbon atoms, wherein ring B is saturated or
 partially unsaturated; or

the ring system comprising ring B, together with the
 10 ring containing Z and the nitrogen atom, contains more
 than ten ring atoms; and

wherein ring B has up to 3 substituents selected
 independently from J; wherein J is as defined above for
 compounds of formula (I).

15 The invention also relates to compositions that
 comprise the above compounds and the use thereof. Such
 compositions may be useful to pre-treat invasive devices
 to be inserted into a patient, to treat biological
 samples, such as blood, prior to administration to a
 20 patient, and for direct administration to a patient. In
 each case the composition will be used to inhibit HCV
 replication and to lessen the risk of or the severity of
 HCV infection.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

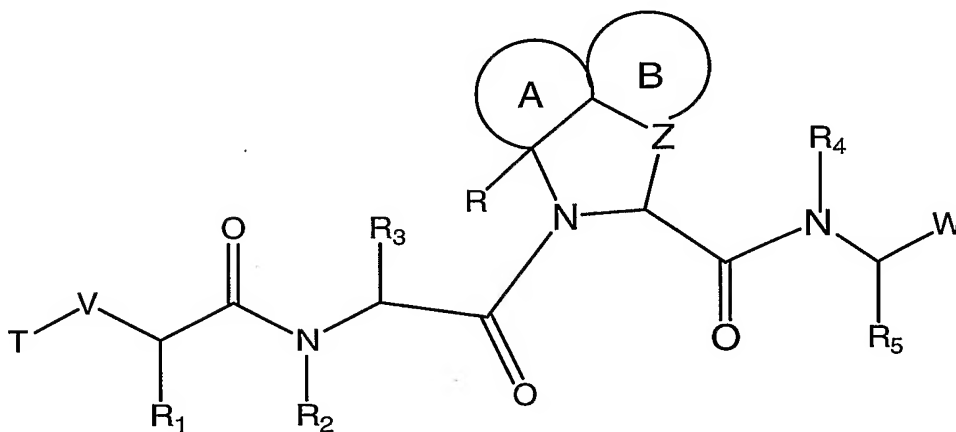
In the description, the following abbreviations are used:

5	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Reagent or Fragment</u>
	Abu	aminobutyric acid
	Ac	acetyl
	AcOH	acetic acid
	Bn	benzyl
10	Boc	tert-butyloxycarbonyl
	Bz	benzoyl
	Cbz	carbobenzyloxy
	CDI	carbonyldiimidazole
	DCE	1,2-dichloroethane
15	DCM	dichloromethane
	DIEA	diisopropylethylamine
	DMA	dimethylacetamide
	DMAP	dimethylaminopyridine
	DMF	dimethylformamide
20	DPPA	diphenylphosphorylazide
	DMSO	dimethylsulfoxide
	Et	ethyl
	EtOAc	ethyl acetate
	FMOC	9-fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl
25	HbtU	O-benzotriazolyl-N,N,N',N' - tetramethyluronium hexafluorophosphate
	HOBt	N-hydroxybenzotriazole
	HPLC	high performance liquid 30 chromatography
	Me	methyl
	MS	mass spectrometry

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	NMP	N-methyl pyrrolidinone
	ND	not determined
	Pip	piperidine
	Prz	piperazine
5	PyBrop	bromo-tris-pyrrolidinophosphonium hexafluorophosphate
	Pyr	pyridine
	THF	tetrahydrofuran
	TFA	trifluoroacetic acid
10	TFE	trifluoroethanol
	Tol	toluene

The present invention provides a compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein:

ring A is a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring,
wherein ring A is optionally fused to a carbocyclic,
20 heterocyclic or heteroaryl ring;

wherein ring A has up to 3 substituents selected
independently from J;

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ring B is a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring,
wherein ring B is optionally fused to a carbocyclic,
heterocyclic or heteroaryl ring;

wherein ring B has up to 3 substituents selected
5 independently from J;

J is halogen, -OR', -NO₂, -CF₃, -OCF₃, -R', oxo, -
OR', -O-benzyl, -O-phenyl, 1,2-methylenedioxy, 1,2-
ethylenedioxy, -N(R')₂, -SR', -SOR', -SO₂R', -C(O)R', -
COOR' or -CON(R')₂, wherein R' is independently selected
10 from:

hydrogen,
(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,
(C1-C12)-aliphatic-
15 [(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],
(C6-C10)-aryl,
(C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,
(C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,
(C6-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,
20 (C5-C10)-heteroaryl, or
(C5-C10)-heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic;

R₁ and R₃ are independently:

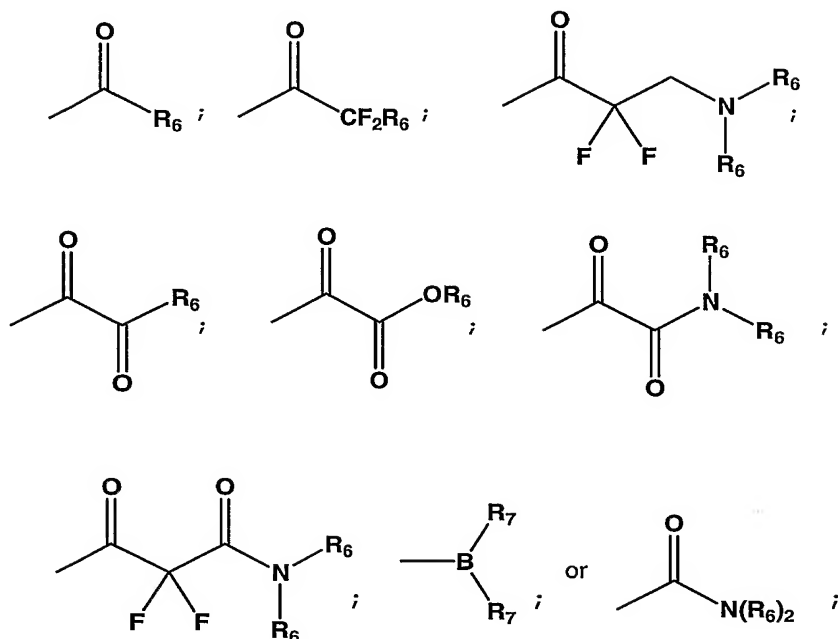
(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,
25 (C1-C12)-aliphatic-
[(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],
(C6-C10)-aryl,
(C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,
(C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,
30 (C6-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,
(C5-C10)-heteroaryl, or
(C5-C10)-heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

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- wherein each of R_1 and R_3 is independently and optionally substituted with up to 3 substituents independently selected from J; wherein up to 3 aliphatic carbon atoms in R_1 and R_3 may be replaced by a heteroatom selected from O, NH, S, SO, or SO_2 in a chemically stable arrangement;
- R_2 and R_4 are independently hydrogen, (C1-C12)-aliphatic, (C3-C10)-cycloalkyl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic, or (C6-C10)aryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic, wherein each of R_2 and R_4 is independently and optionally substituted with up to 3 substituents independently selected from J; wherein up to two aliphatic carbon atoms in R_2 and R_4 may be replaced by a heteroatom selected from O, NH, S, SO, or SO_2 in a chemically stable arrangement;
- Z is a carbon atom, -CHR-N-, -HN-CR- or -CHR-CHR-, -O-CHR, -S-CHR, -SO-CHR, - SO_2 -CHR, or -N-; wherein R is aliphatic, aryl, aralkyl or cycloalkyl;
- R_5 is -(C1-C12) aliphatic, wherein any hydrogen is optionally substituted with halogen, and wherein any hydrogen or halogen atom bound to any terminal carbon atom of R_5 is optionally substituted with sulfhydryl or hydroxy;

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W is selected from: -C(O)OH;

wherein each R₆ is independently:

hydrogen,

5 (C1-C12)-aliphatic,

(C1-C12)-aliphatic-

[(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],

(C6-C10)-aryl,

(C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,

10 (C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,

(C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,

(C3-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

(C5-C10)heteroaryl, or

(C5-C10)heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic, or

15 two R₆ groups, which are bound to the same nitrogen atom, form together with that nitrogen atom, a (C3-C10)-heterocyclic ring;

wherein R₆ is optionally substituted with up to 3 J substituents;

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each R_7 is hydroxy, alkoxy, or aryloxy; or

each R_7 is an oxygen atom linked to an aliphatic group and, together with the boron to which they are each bound, the two R_7 groups form a 3-6 membered ring;

5 V is a bond, $-\text{CH}(R_8)-$, $-\text{N}(R_8)-$, $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{O}-\text{CH}(R_8)$,
 $-\text{CH}(R_8)-\text{O}-$, $-\text{S}-$, $-\text{S}-\text{CH}(R_8)-$, $-\text{CH}(R_8)-\text{S}-$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})-$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{O}-$,
 $-\text{O}-\text{C}(\text{O})-$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{S}-$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{CHR}_8-$, $-\text{CHR}_8-\text{C}(\text{O})-$, $-\text{N}(R_8)\text{C}(\text{O})-$,
 $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{N}(R_8)-$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})-$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})-\text{CH}(R_8)$, $-\text{CH}(R_8)-\text{S}(\text{O})-$,
 $-\text{S}(\text{O})\text{N}(R_8)-$, $-\text{N}(R_8)\text{S}(\text{O})-$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})-\text{N}(R_8)-\text{CHR}_8$, $-\text{N}(R_8)-\text{S}(\text{O})-$
10 CHR_8- , $-\text{CHR}_8-\text{S}(\text{O})_2$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2-\text{CH}(R_8)-$, $-\text{CH}(R_8)-\text{S}(\text{O})_2-$,
 $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2\text{N}(R_8)-$, $-\text{N}(R_8)-\text{S}(\text{O})_2-$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2-\text{N}(R_8)-\text{CHR}_8$ or $-\text{N}(R_8)-$
 $\text{S}(\text{O})_2-\text{CHR}_8$;

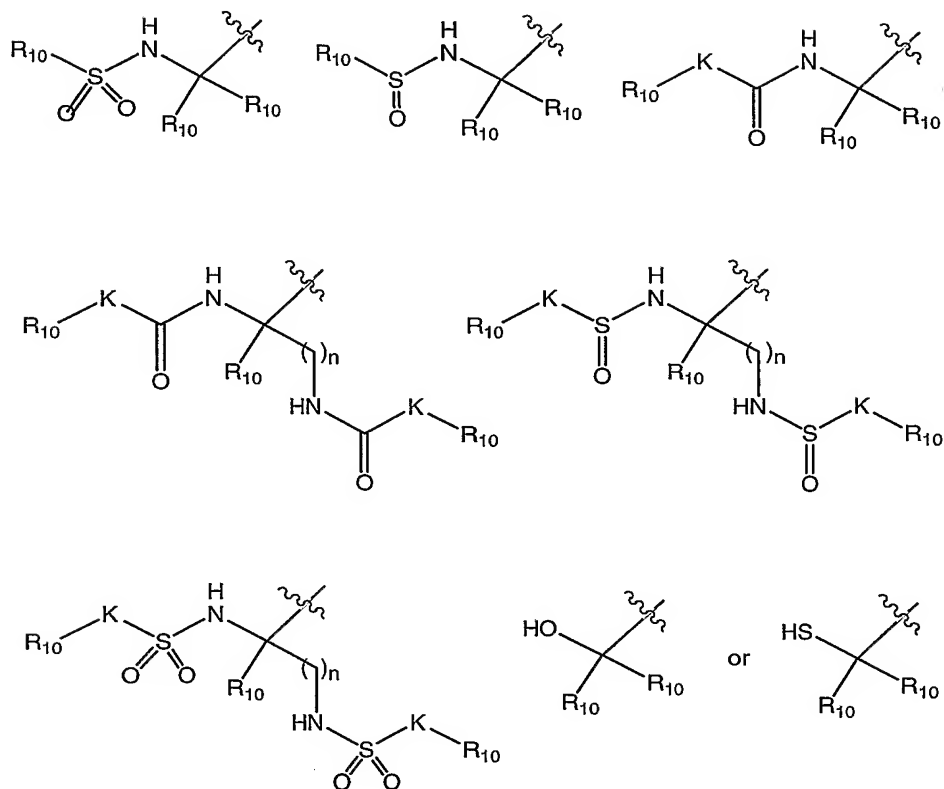
wherein R_8 is hydrogen or (C1-C12)-aliphatic;

T is selected from:

15 (C6-C10)-aryl,
 (C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,
 (C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,
 (C1-C12)-aliphatic-
 [(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],
20 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,
 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
 (C5-C10)heteroaryl, or
 (C5-C10)heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic; or

- 20 -

T is selected from:



wherein:

 R_{10} is:

- 5 hydrogen,
- (C1-C12)-aliphatic,
- (C1-C12)-aliphatic-
- [(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],
- (C6-C10)-aryl,
- 10 (C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,
- (C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,
- (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,
- (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
- (C5-C10)-heteroaryl, or
- 15 (C5-C10)-heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

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wherein each T is optionally substituted with up to 3 J substituents;

K is a bond, (C1-C12)-aliphatic, -O-, -S-, -NR₉-, -C(O)-, or -C(O)-NR₉-, wherein R₉ is hydrogen or (C1-C12)-aliphatic; and
n is 1-3.

DEFINITIONS

The term "aryl" as used herein means a monocyclic or bicyclic carbocyclic aromatic ring system comprising 6 to 10 atoms. Phenyl is an example of a monocyclic aromatic ring system. Bicyclic carbocyclic aromatic ring systems include systems wherein both rings are aromatic, e.g., naphthyl, and systems wherein only one of the two rings is aromatic, e.g., tetralin.

The bond "---" refers to an optionally present bond.

The term "heterocyclyl" or "heterocyclic" as used herein means a 3-10 membered monocyclic or bicyclic non-aromatic ring system having up to 4 heteroatom or heteroatom groups in each ring selected from O, N, NH, S, SO or SO₂ in a chemically stable arrangement. In such a bicyclic non-aromatic ring system embodiment of "heterocyclyl":

- both rings may contain said heteroatom or heteroatom groups; or

- one ring may contain said heteroatom or heteroatom groups and the other ring may be a C3-C6 cycloalkyl or phenyl.

Heterocyclic rings include 3-1H-benzimidazol-2-one, 3-(1-alkyl)-benzimidazol-2-one, 2-tetrahydrofuranyl, 3-tetrahydrofuranyl, 2-tetrahydrothiophenyl, 3-

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tetrahydrothiophenyl, 2-morpholino, 3-morpholino, 4-morpholino, 2-thiomorpholino, 3-thiomorpholino, 4-thiomorpholino, 1-pyrrolidinyl, 2-pyrrolidinyl, 3-pyrrolidinyl, 1-tetrahydropiperazinyl, 2-tetrahydropiperazinyl, 3-tetrahydropiperazinyl, 1-piperidinyl, 2-piperidinyl, 3-piperidinyl, 1-pyrazolinyl, 3-pyrazolinyl, 4-pyrazolinyl, 5-pyrazolinyl, 1-piperidinyl, 2-piperidinyl, 3-piperidinyl, 4-piperidinyl, 2-thiazolidinyl, 3-thiazolidinyl, 4-thiazolidinyl, 1-imidazolidinyl, 2-imidazolidinyl, 4-imidazolidinyl, 5-imidazolidinyl, indolinyl, tetrahydroquinolinyl, tetrahydroisoquinolinyl, benzothiolane, benzodithiane, and 1,3-dihydro-imidazol-2-one.

The term "heteroaryl" as used herein means a 5-10 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring system having up to 4 heteroatom or heteroatom groups in each ring selected from O, N, NH or S in a chemically stable arrangement. In such a bicyclic aromatic ring system embodiment of "heteroaryl":

- one or both rings may be aromatic;
- both rings may contain said heteroatom or heteroatom groups; or
- one ring may contain said heteroatom or heteroatom groups and the other ring may be a C3-C6 cycloalkyl or phenyl.

Heteroaryl rings include 2-furanyl, 3-furanyl, N-imidazolyl, 2-imidazolyl, 4-imidazolyl, 5-imidazolyl, benzimidazolyl, 3-isoxazolyl, 4-isoxazolyl, 5-isoxazolyl, 2-oxazolyl, 4-oxazolyl, 5-oxazolyl, N-pyrrolyl, 2-pyrrolyl, 3-pyrrolyl, 2-pyridyl, 3-pyridyl, 4-pyridyl, 2-pyrimidinyl, 4-pyrimidinyl, 5-pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyl (e.g., 3-pyridazinyl), 2-thiazolyl, 4-thiazolyl, 5-

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thiazolyl, tetrazolyl (e.g., 5-tetrazolyl), triazolyl (e.g., 2-triazolyl and 5-triazolyl), 2-thienyl, 3-thienyl, benzofuryl, benzothiophenyl, indolyl (e.g., 2-indolyl), pyrazolyl (e.g., 2-pyrazolyl), isothiazolyl, 5 1,2,3-oxadiazolyl, 1,2,5-oxadiazolyl, 1,2,4-oxadiazolyl, 1,2,3-triazolyl, 1,2,3-thiadiazolyl, 1,3,4-thiadiazolyl, 1,2,5-thiadiazolyl, purinyl, pyrazinyl, 1,3,5-triazinyl, quinolinyl (e.g., 2-quinolinyl, 3-quinolinyl, 4-quinolinyl), and isoquinolinyl (e.g., 1-isoquinolinyl, 3-isoquinolinyl, or 4-isoquinolinyl). Each of the above 10 aryl, heterocyclyl or heteroaryl above may contain up to 3 substituents independently selected from halogen, -OR', -NO₂, -CF₃, -OCF₃, -R', oxo, -OR', -O-benzyl, -O-phenyl, 1,2-methylenedioxy, 1,2-ethylenedioxy; -N(R')₂, 15 -C(O)R', -COOR' or -CON(R')₂, wherein R' is independently selected from H, (C1-C6)-alkyl, (C2-C6)-alkenyl or alkynyl.

The phrase "chemically stable arrangement" as used herein refers to a compound structure that renders 20 the compound sufficiently stable to allow manufacture and administration to a mammal by methods known in the art. Typically, such compounds are stable at a temperature of 40°C or less, in the absence of moisture or other chemically reactive condition, for at least a week.

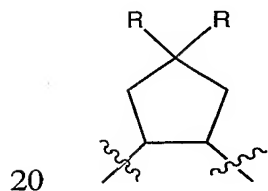
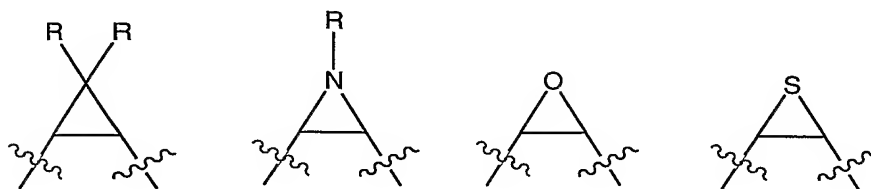
25 In an alternate embodiment of formulae (I)-(IV), R¹ is -CH₂-CH(CH₃)-CH₃, -C(CH₃)₃, -CH(CH₃)₂, -CH(CH₃)-CH₂-CH₃ or cyclohexyl; V is -C(O)N(R₈)-, -S(O)N(R₈)-, -S(O)₂N(R₈)-, a bond, -CH(R₈)-, -N(R₈)-, -O-, -O-CH(R₈)-, -S-, -S-CH(R₈), -C(O)-, -C(O)-O-, -C(O)-S-, 30 -C(O)-CHR₈-, -S(O)-, -S(O)-CH(R₈), -S(O)-N(R₈)-CHR₈, -S(O)₂-, -S-(O)₂-CH(R₈)-, or -S(O)₂-N(R₈)-CHR₈; or J is halogen, -OR', -NO₂, -CF₃, -OCF₃, -R', oxo, -OR', -O-

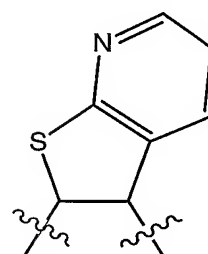
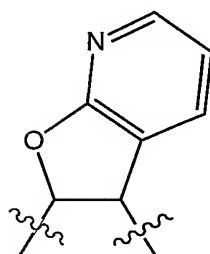
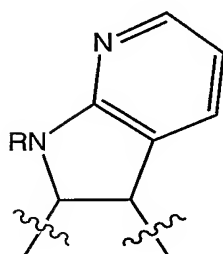
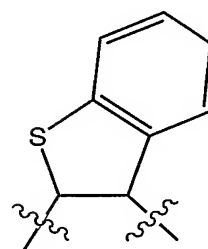
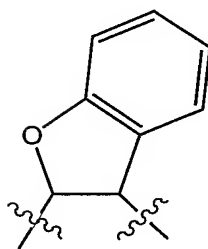
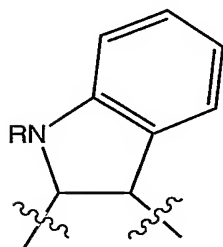
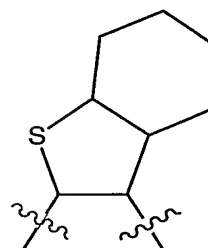
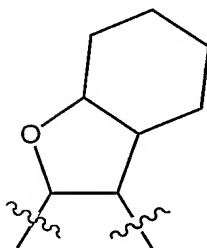
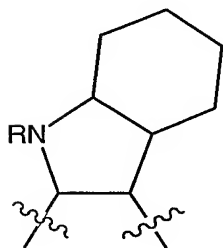
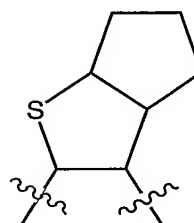
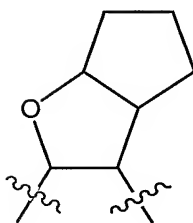
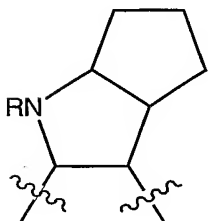
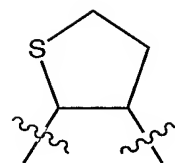
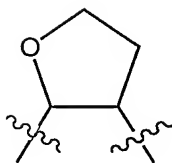
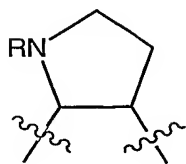
- 24 -

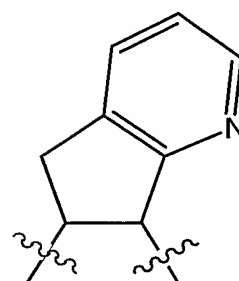
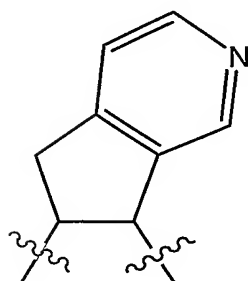
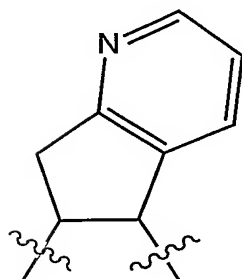
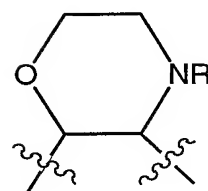
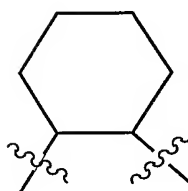
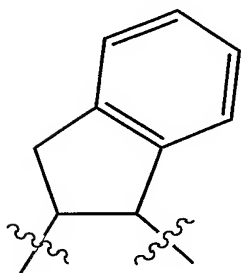
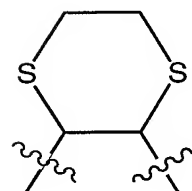
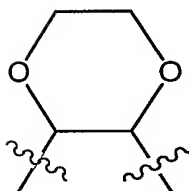
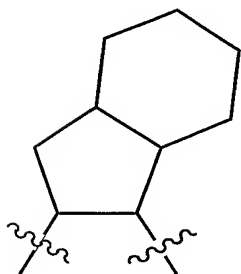
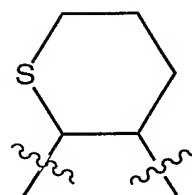
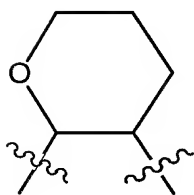
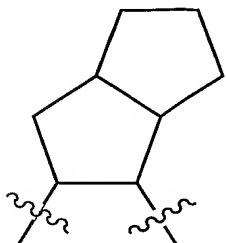
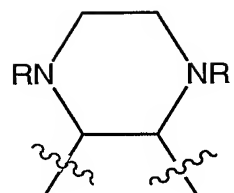
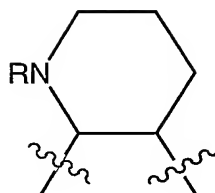
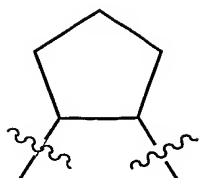
benzyl, -O-phenyl, 1,2-methylenedioxy, 1,2-ethylenedioxy,
 -N(R')₂, -SR', -SOR', -SO₂R', -C(O)R', -COOR' or -
 CON(R')₂, wherein R' is independently selected from:

- hydrogen,
 5 (C1-C12)-aliphatic,
 (C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,
 (C1-C12)-aliphatic-
 [(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],
 (C6-C10)-aryl,
 10 (C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,
 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,
 (C6-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,
 (C5-C10)-heteroaryl, or
 (C5-C10)-heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic;
 15 and the other variables are as defined herein.

In compounds of formula (I), ring A is preferably selected from:



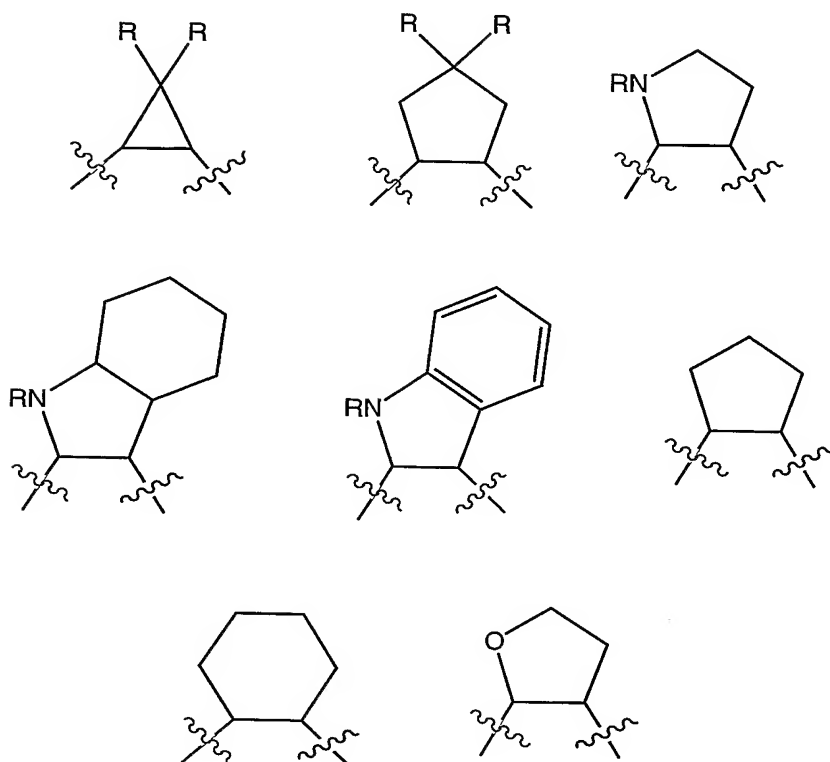




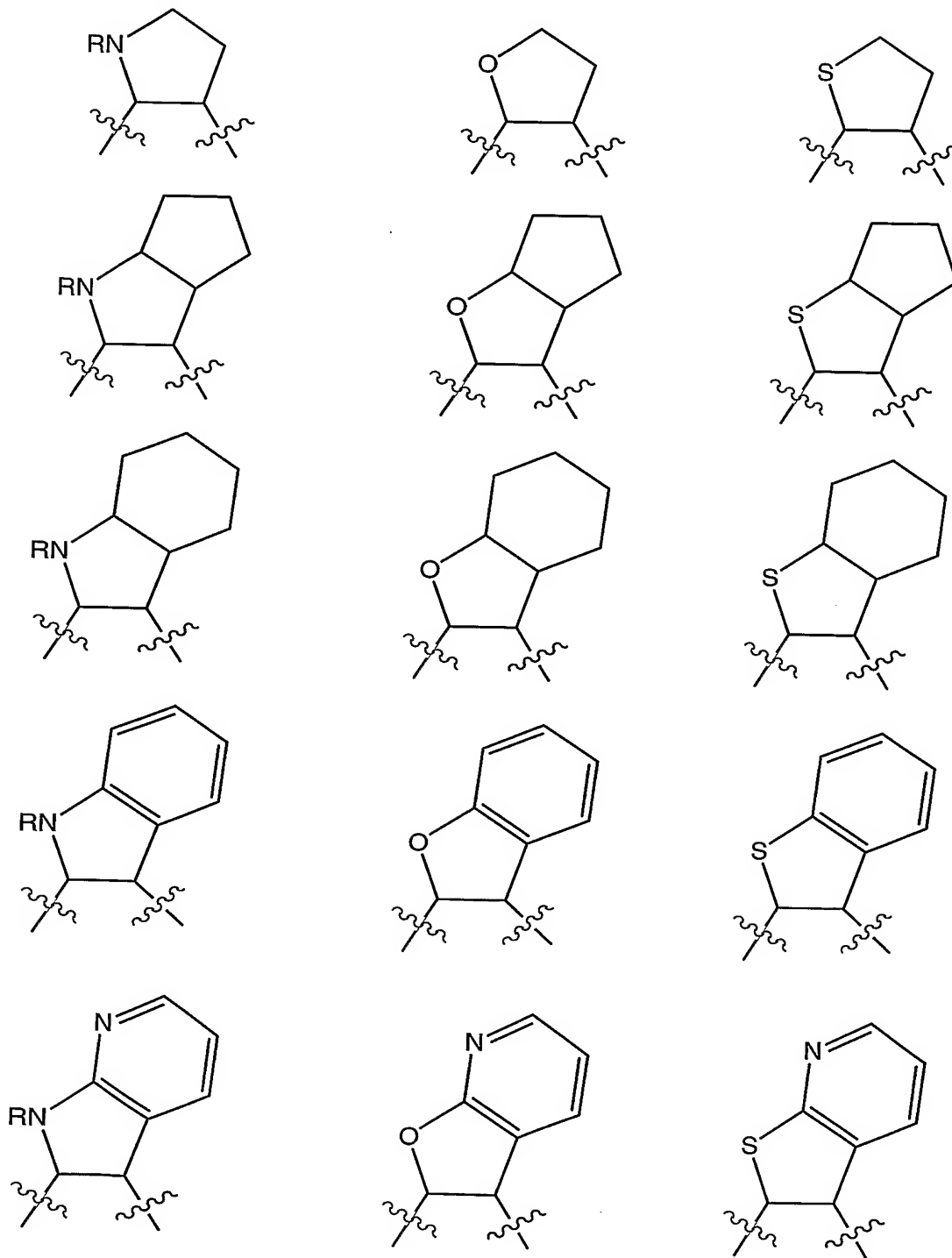
wherein R is aliphatic, aryl, aralkyl or cycloalkyl.

More preferably, ring A is selected from:

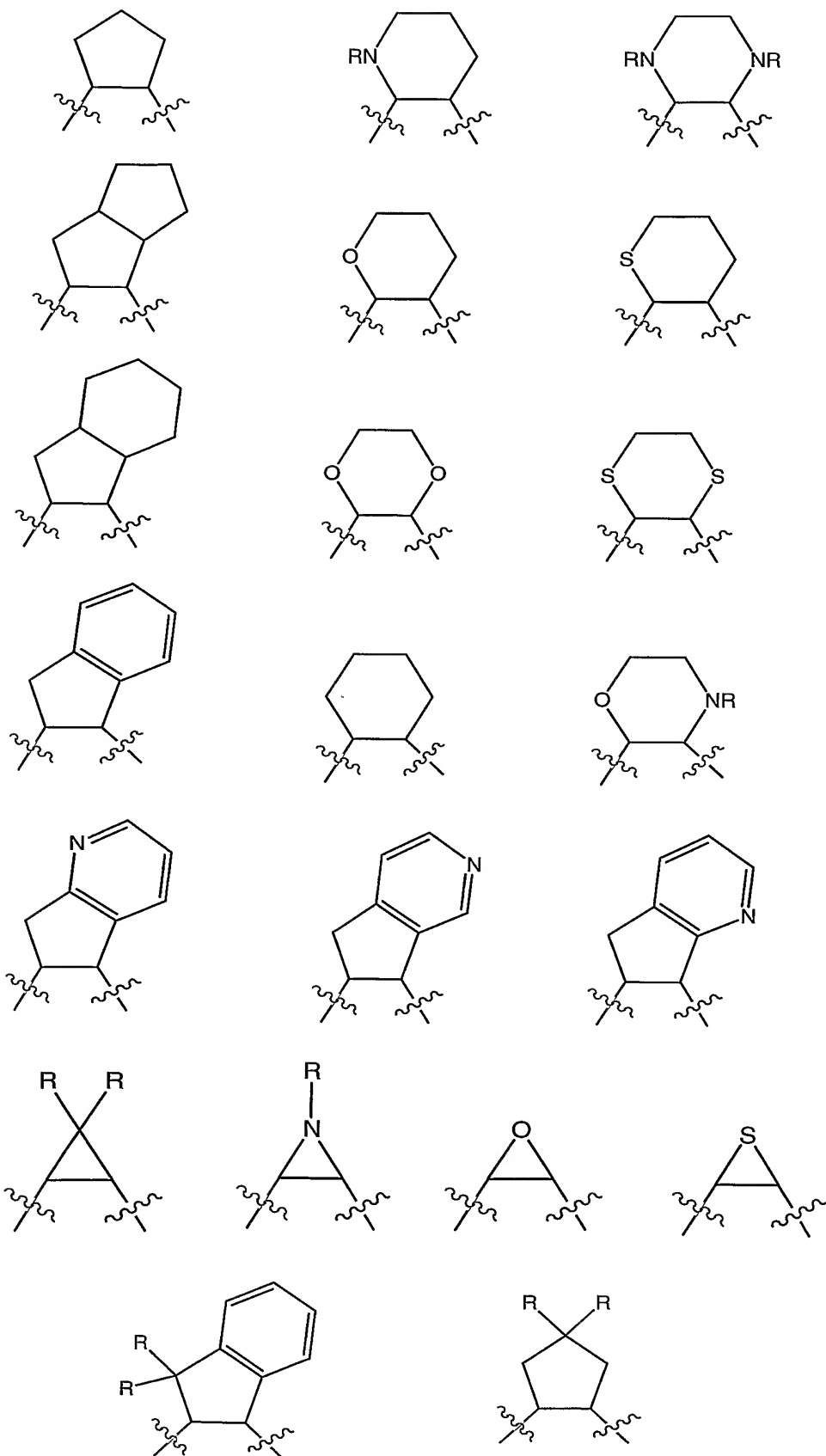
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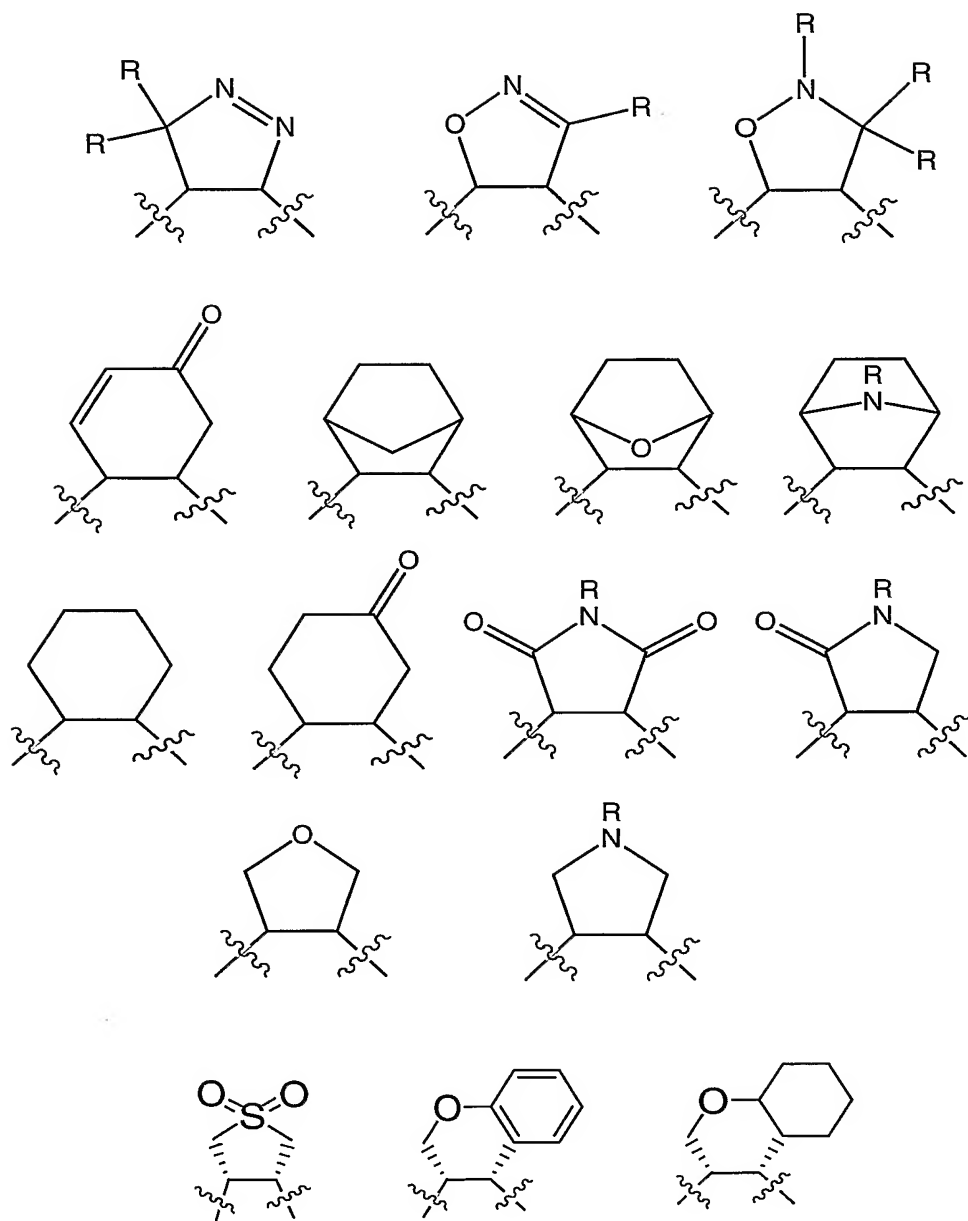
Ring B is preferably selected from:



- 29 -



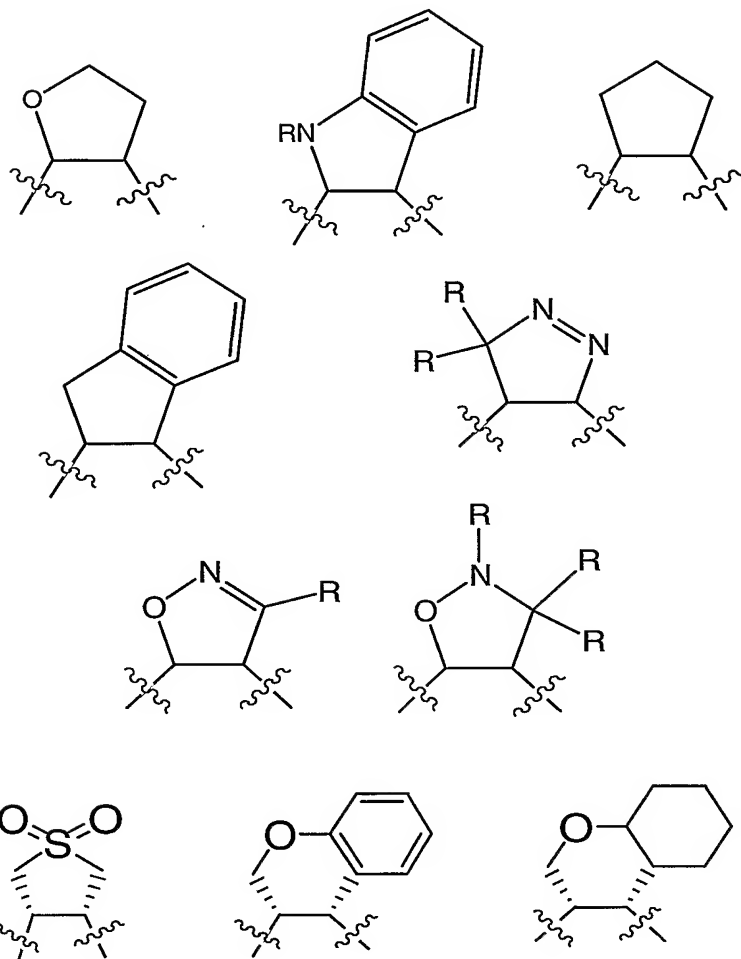
- 30 -



wherein R is aliphatic, aryl, aralkyl or cycloalkyl.

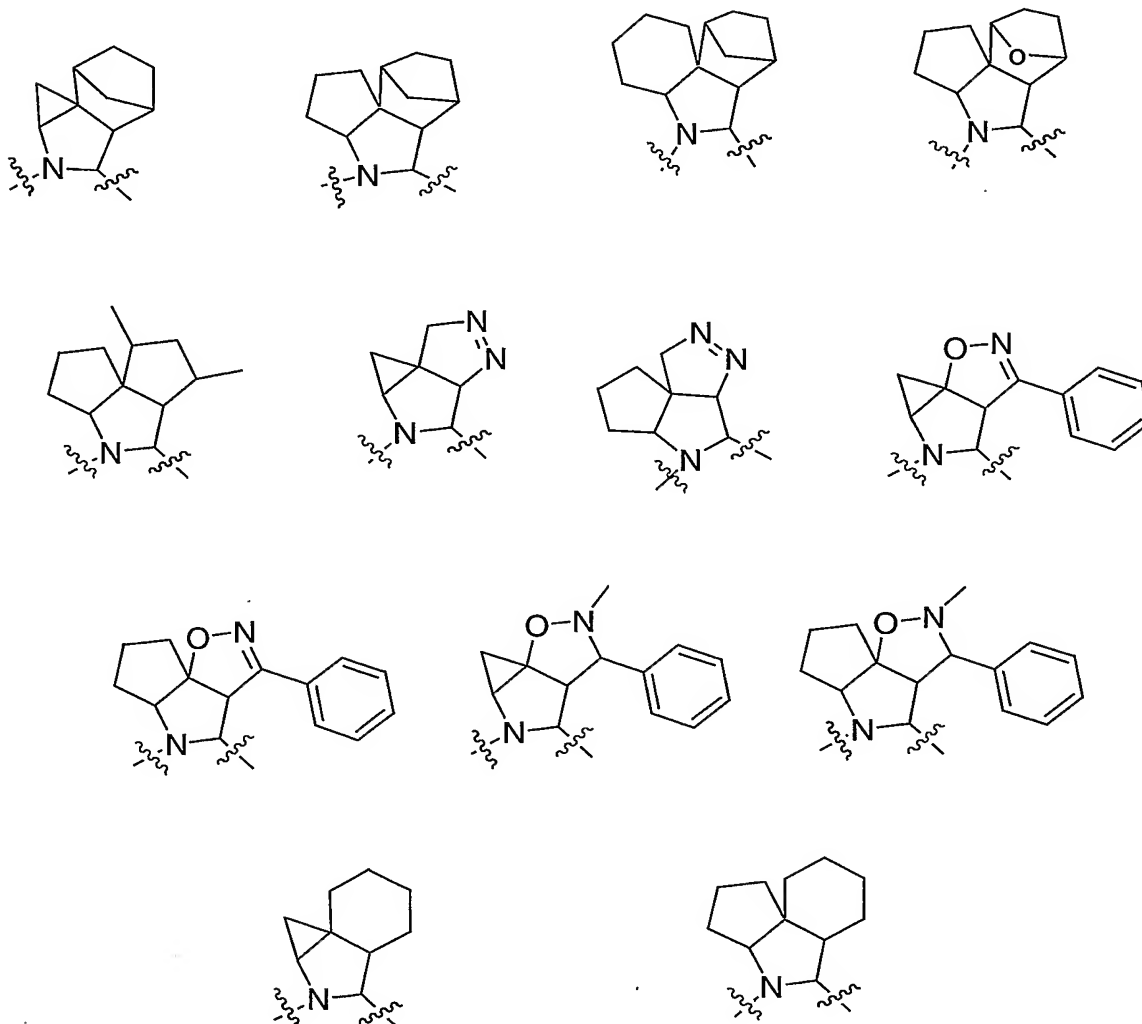
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More preferably, ring B is selected from:



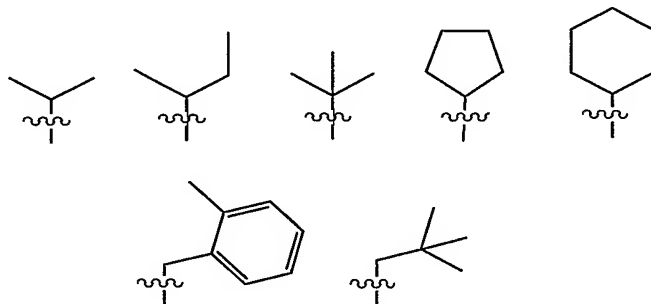
According to another preferred embodiment of compounds of formula (I), rings A, B, together with the ring connected thereto include:

5



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According to another preferred embodiment, R_1 is selected from $-(C1-C10)alkyl$, $-(C3-C7)cycloalkyl$, or $-((C1-C6)alkyl)-((C3-C7)cycloalkyl)$. More preferably, R_1 is selected from:

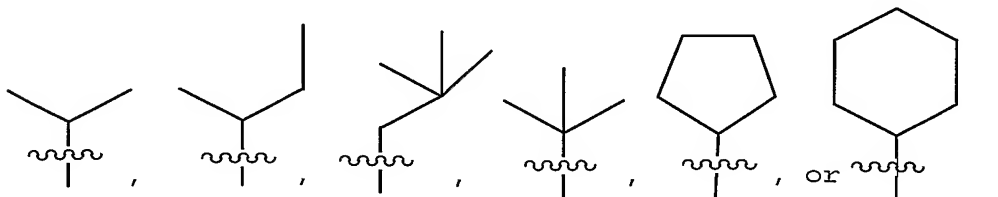


Even more preferably, R_1 is selected from $-CH_2-C(CH_3)_3$, $-C(CH_3)_3$, $-CH(CH_3)_2$, $-CH(CH_3)-CH_2-CH_3$, or cyclohexyl. Most preferably R_1 is cyclohexyl.

According to another preferred embodiment, R_2 is $(C1-C12)$ -aliphatic. More preferably, R_2 is selected from hydrogen, methyl, ethyl or propyl. Even more preferably, R_2 is hydrogen or methyl. Most preferably, R_2 is hydrogen.

According to another preferred embodiment, R_3 is selected from $-(C1-C10)alkyl$, $-(C3-C7)cycloalkyl$, or $-((C1-C6)alkyl)-((C3-C7)cycloalkyl)$.

More preferably, R_3 is selected from:

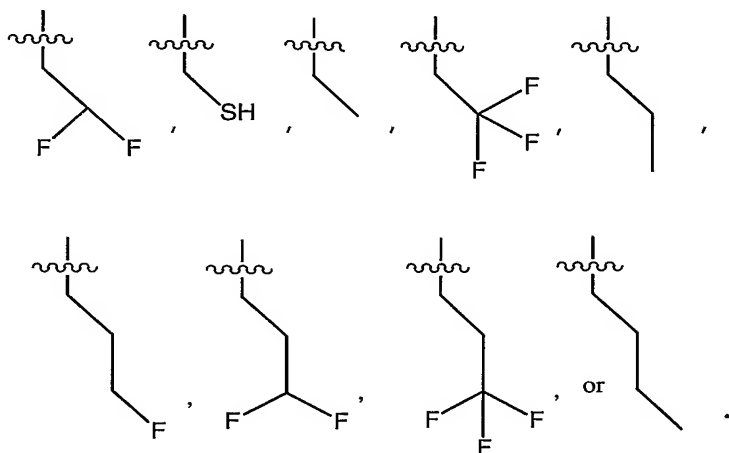


Even more preferably, R₃ is selected from -C(CH₃)₂, -CH(CH₃)₂, -CH(CH₃)-CH₂-CH₃, or cyclohexyl. Most preferably, R₃ is selected from -C(CH₃)₃ or -CH(CH₃)₂.

According to another preferred embodiment, R_4 is (C1-C12)-aliphatic. More preferably, R_4 is selected from hydrogen, methyl, ethyl or propyl. Even more preferably, R_4 is selected from hydrogen.

According to another preferred embodiment, R₅ is -(C2-C7)alkyl optionally substituted with halogen.

10 Preferably, R_5 is selected from:



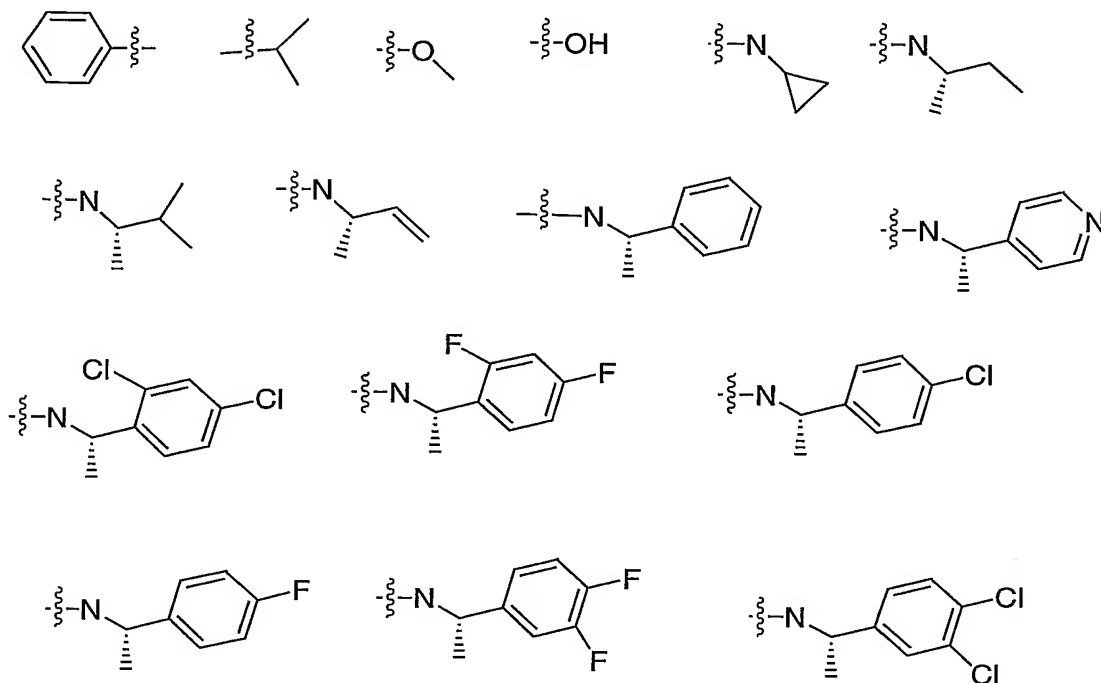
More preferably, R₅ is selected from -CH₂CH₂CH₃,
-CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃, -CH₂CH₂CH₂F, -CH₂CH₂CHF₂, or -CH₂CH₂CF₃. Even
15 more preferably, R₅ is selected from -CH₂CH₂CH₃,
-CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃ or -CH₂CH₂CHF₂. Most preferably, R₅ is
-CH₂CH₂CH₃ or -CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃.

According to another preferred embodiment W is selected from: CHO, -C(O)-R₆, -CO₂H, -C(O)-C(O)-R₆, or -C(O)-C(O)-NH(R₆), wherein R₆ is selected from hydrogen, aryl, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl, C3-C6 alkyl, C3-C6 cycloalkyl, hydroxy, -O-C1-C6 alkyl, wherein -NH(R₆) is selected from -NH-(C3-C6 cycloalkyl), NH-aralkyl, -NH-

- 35 -

alkylheteroaryl, -NH-alkylheterocyclyl, and wherein said aryl, heterocyclyl or heteroaryl is optionally substituted with up to 3 halogen atoms.

More preferably, R_6 or -NH(R_6) is selected from:



5

According to another preferred embodiment W is selected from -C(O)OH or -C(O)-C(O)- R_6 . More preferably, W is -C(O)-C(O)- R_6 . Preferably, R_6 is isopropyl.

10 According to a preferred embodiment, W is -C(O)-C(O)- R_6 . Preferably, R_6 is isopropyl.

According to another preferred embodiment, W is -C(O)-C(O)-OR $_6$. Preferably, R_6 is hydrogen, (C1-C12)-aliphatic, (C6-C10)-aryl, (C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or
 15 -cycloalkenyl, (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl or (C5-C10)heteroaryl. More preferably, R_6 is H or methyl.

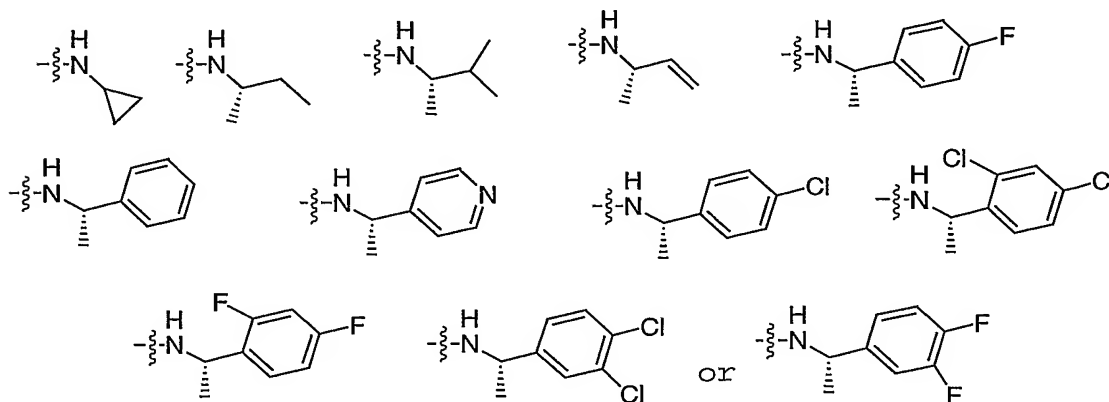
- 36 -

According to yet another preferred embodiment, W is $-C(O)-C(O)-N(R_6)_2$. Preferably, R_6 is hydrogen, (C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl, or (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl.

5 In another preferred embodiment of compounds of formula (I) is where W is $C(O)-C(O)-N(R_6)_2$, the NR_6R_6 portion of the W moiety is $-NH-(C3-C6)$ cycloalkyl, $-NH-CH(CH_3)-(C6-C10)$ aryl or $-NH-CH(CH_3)-(C3-C10)$ heterocyclyl, or $-NH-CH(CH_3)-(C5-C10)$ heteroaryl, 10 wherein said aryl, heterocyclyl, or heteroaryl is optionally substituted with halogen.

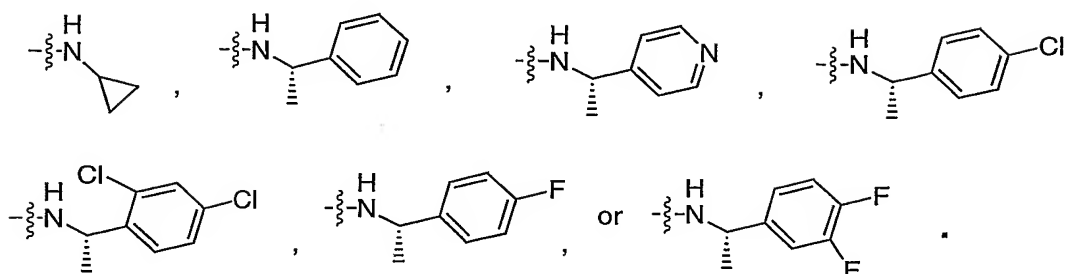
Alternatively, the NR_6R_6 portion is $-NH-(C3-C6)$ cycloalkyl, $-NH-CH(CH_3)-(C6-C10)$ aryl, or $-NH-CH(CH_3)-(C5-C10)$ heteroaryl, wherein said aryl or said 15 heterocyclyl is optionally substituted with halogen; or NR_6R_6 is $-NH-(C3-C6)$ cycloalkyl, $-NH-CH(CH_3)-(C6-C10)$ aryl, or $-NH-CH(CH_3)-(C3-C10)$ heterocyclyl, wherein said aryl or said heterocyclyl is optionally substituted with halogen.

In other preferred embodiment of formula I, 20 NR_6R_6 in W is:

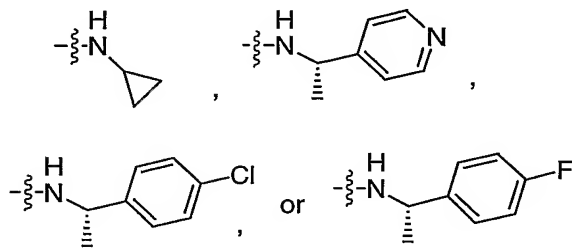


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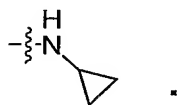
More preferably, NR_6R_6 is:



Even more preferably, NR_6R_6 is:



Most preferably, NR_6R_6 is:



10 According to another preferred embodiment, when W is $-\text{B}(\text{R}_7)_2$, each R_7 is selected from hydroxy, alkoxy, or aryloxy.

15 According to yet another preferred embodiment, when W is $-\text{B}(\text{R}_7)_2$, each R_7 is selected from an oxygen atom linked to an aliphatic group and, together with the boron to which they are each bound, the two R_7 groups form a 5-8 membered ring.

20 According to another preferred embodiment, V is a bond, $-\text{CH}(\text{R}_8)-$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}_8)-$, $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{O}-\text{CH}(\text{R}_8)-$, $-\text{S}-$, $-\text{S}-\text{CH}(\text{R}_8)-$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})-$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{O}-$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{S}-$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{CHR}_8-$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{N}(\text{R}_8)-$, -

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$S(O)-$, $-S(O)-CH(R_8)-$, $-S(O)N(R_8)-$, $-S(O)-N(R_8)-CHR_8$, $-S(O)_2$, $-S-(O)_2-CH(R_8)-$, $-S(O)_2N(R_8)-$, or $-S(O)_2-N(R_8)-CHR_8$; wherein R_8 is hydrogen or $-(C1-C3)alkyl$;

According to another preferred embodiment, V is
5 $-NH-$.

According to yet another preferred embodiment, V is $-C(O)-$.

According to yet another preferred embodiment, V is $-C(O)-NR_8-$. More preferably, V is $-C(O)-NH-$.

10 According to yet another preferred embodiment T is a heterocyclyl or heteroaryl, optionally having up to 3 substituents as defined above.

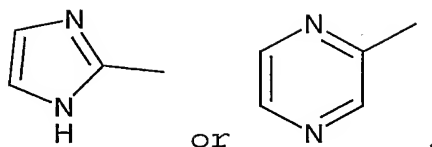
According to yet another preferred embodiment, T is a $-(C5-C10)heteroaryl$.

15 According to yet another preferred embodiment, T is selected from 3-1H-benzimidazol-2-one, 3-(1-alkyl)-benzimidazol-2-one, 2-tetrahydrofuranyl, 3-tetrahydrofuranyl, pyrazolynyl, 1,3-dihydro-imidazol-2-one, 2-imidazolyl, 4-imidazolyl, 5-imidazolyl, 2-oxazolyl, 4-oxazolyl, 5-oxazolyl, 2-pyrrolyl, 3-pyrrolyl, 2-pyrimidinyl, 4-pyrimidinyl, 5-pyrimidinyl, 5-tetrazolyl, pyrazolyl, pyrazinyl or 1,3,5-triazinyl.

25 Even more preferably, T is selected from 3-1H-benzimidazol-2-one, 3-(1-alkyl)-benzimidazol-2-one, pyrazolynyl, 1,3-dihydro-imidazol-2-one, 2-imidazolyl, 2-pyrrolyl, 2-pyrimidinyl, 5-pyrimidinyl, 5-tetrazolyl or pyrazinyl.

Most preferred is when T or R^7 is selected from:

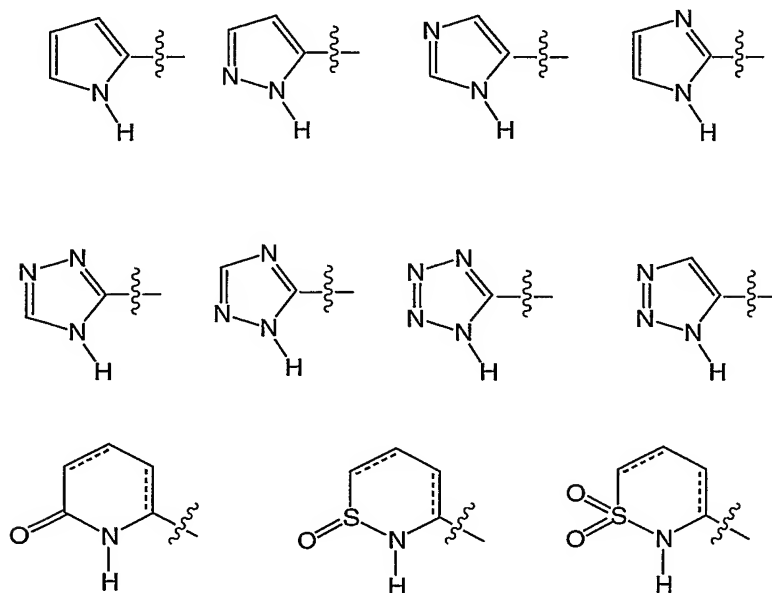
- 39 -



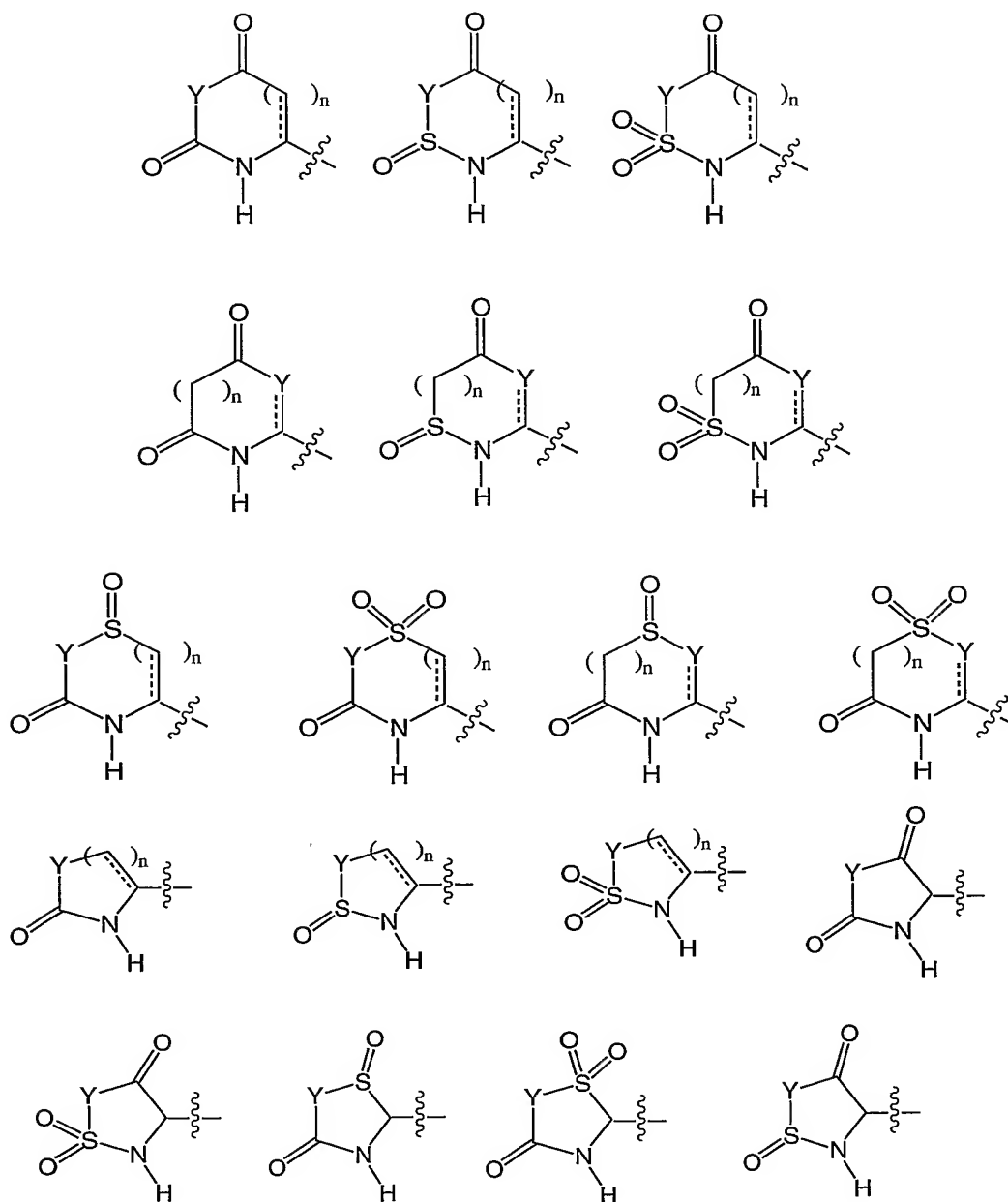
Preferred substituents on T in the above
embodiments are halogen, $-\text{CF}_3$, $-\text{OCF}_3$, oxo, $-\text{COOR}'$, or
5 $-\text{CON}(\text{R}')_2$, wherein R' is as defined above.

According to another preferred embodiment of
this invention, T contains at least one hydrogen bond
donor moiety selected from $-\text{NH}_2$, $-\text{NH}-$, $-\text{OH}$, and $-\text{SH}$.

In a preferred embodiment, T is:



- 40 -

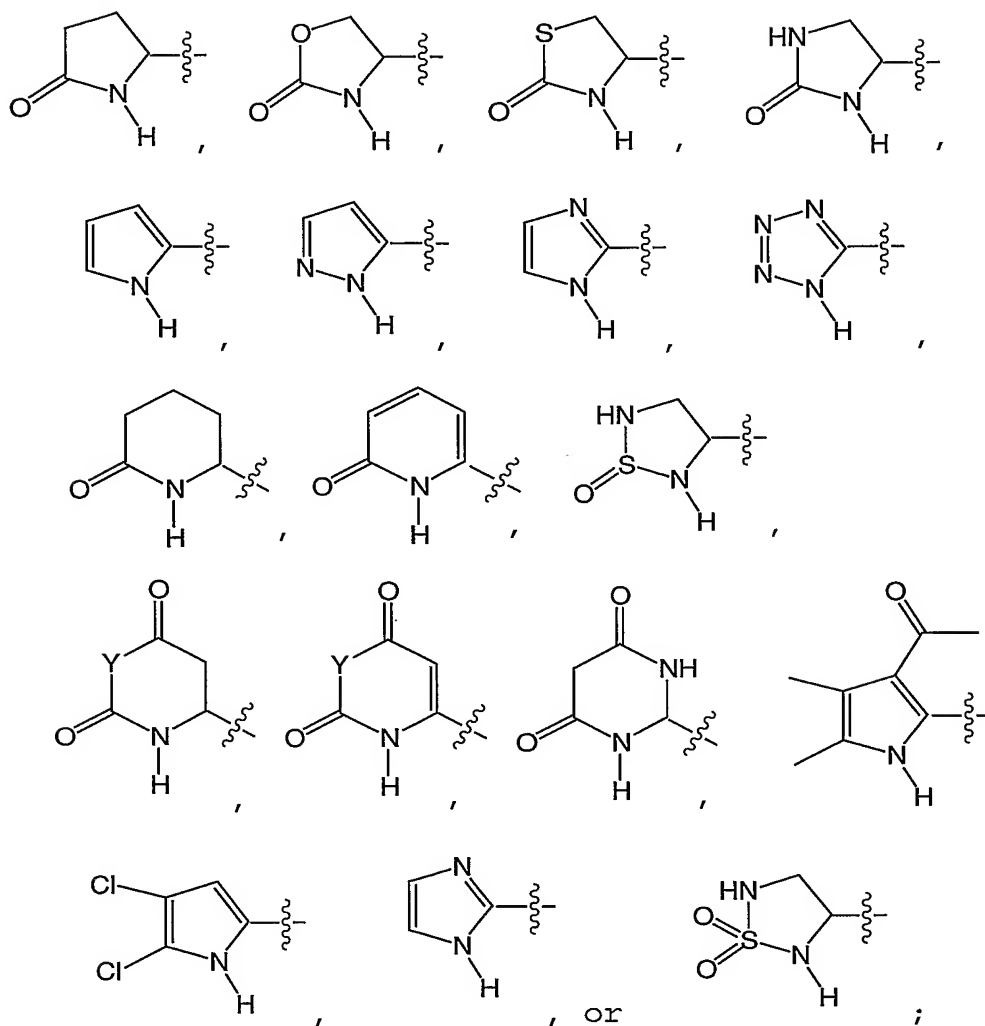


wherein:

- 5 T is optionally substituted with up to 3 J substituents, wherein J is as defined in claim 1;
- Y is independently O, S, NR₁₀, or C(R₁₀)₂;
- n is independently 1 or 2; and
- is independently a single bond or a double bond.

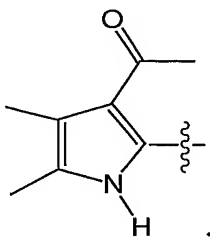
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In another preferred embodiment, T is:



wherein Y is as defined above.

More preferably T is



5

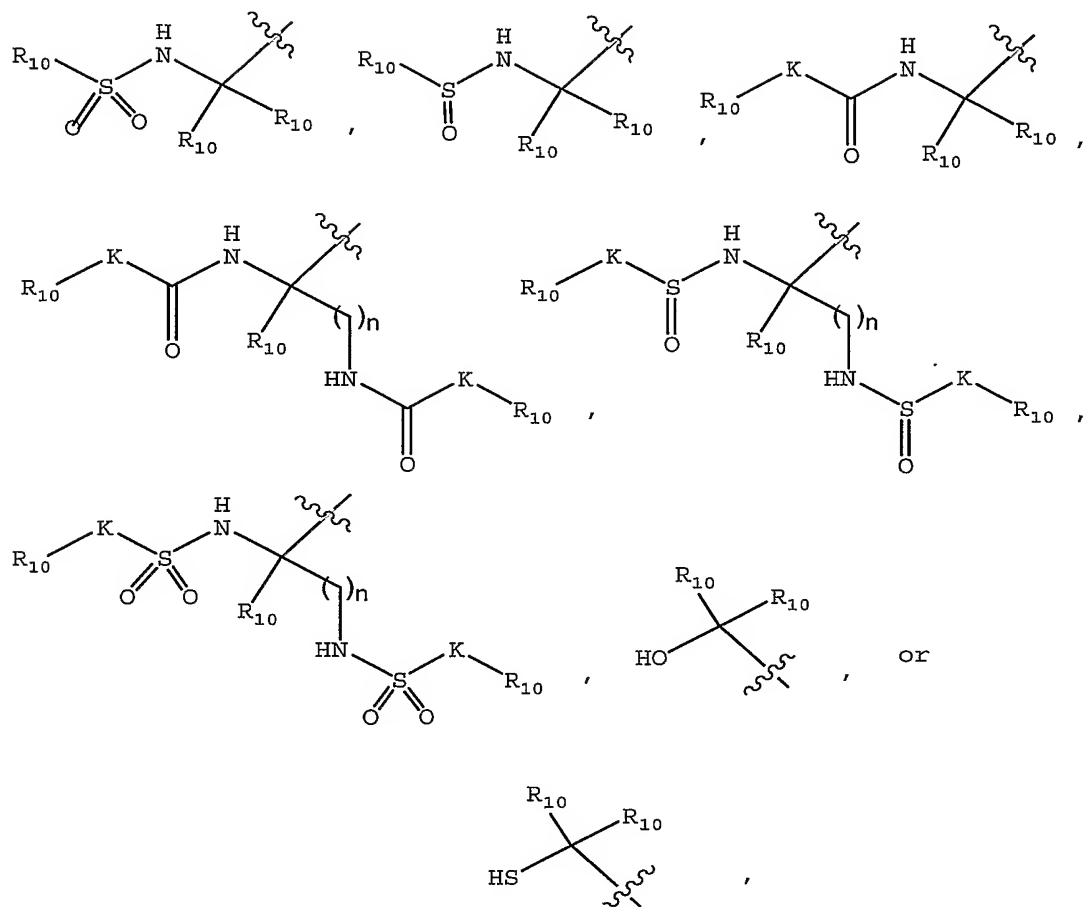
According to yet another preferred embodiment,
T is:

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(C6-C10)-aryl,
(C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,
(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,
[(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl]-(C1-C12)-
5 aliphatic,
(C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,
(C3-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
(C5-C10)heteroaryl, or
(C5-C10)heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
10 wherein each T is optionally substituted with up to
3 J substituents.

According to yet another preferred embodiment
of this invention, T:

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wherein:

 R_{10} is:

- 5 hydrogen,
 (C1-C12)-aliphatic,
 (C6-C10)-aryl,
 (C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,
 (C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,
 10 [(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl]-(C1-
 C12)-aliphatic,
 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,
 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
 (C5-C10)heteroaryl, or
 15 (C5-C10)heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

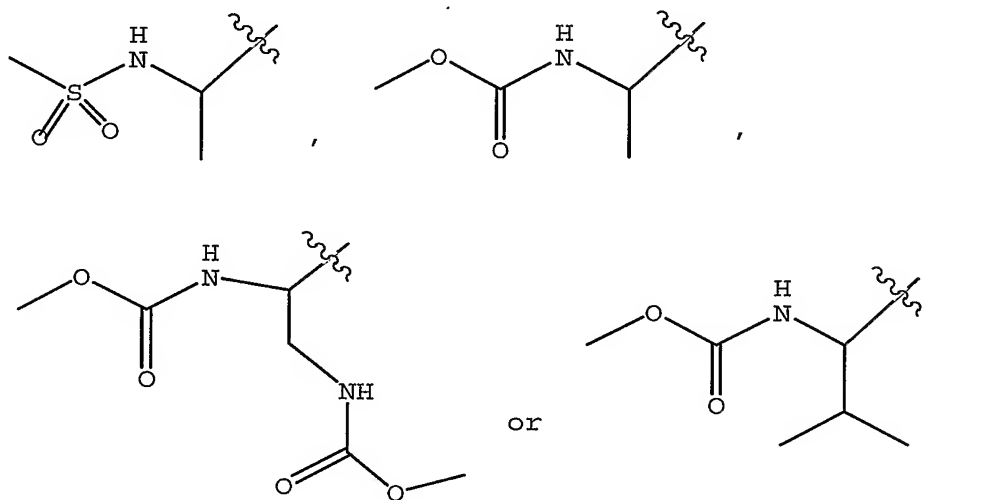
- 44 -

wherein each T is optionally substituted with up to 3 J substituents;

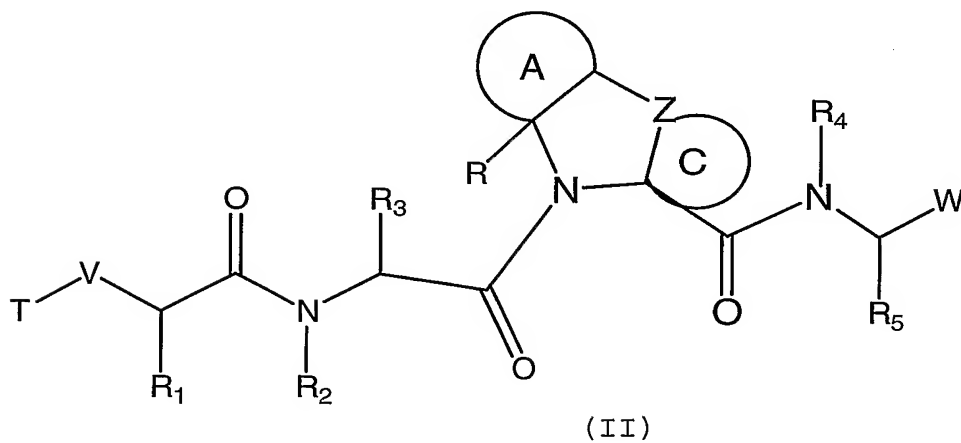
K is a bond, -O-, -S-, -NR₉-, -C(O)-, or -C(O)-NR₉-, wherein R₉ is hydrogen or C1-C12 aliphatic; and

5 n is 1-3.

More preferably, T is:



10 According to another embodiment, the present invention provides compounds of formula (II):



wherein:

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ring A is a carbocyclic, heteroaryl or heterocyclic ring, wherein ring A is optionally fused to an carbocyclic, heterocyclic or heteroaryl ring;

5 wherein ring A has up to 4 substituents selected independently from J;

ring C is a cycloalkyl or heterocyclic ring;

wherein ring C has up to 3 substituents selected independently from J;

J is halogen, -OR', -NO₂, -CF₃, -OCF₃, -R', oxo, -O-
10 benzyl, -O-phenyl, 1,2-methylenedioxy, 1,2-ethylenedioxy, -N(R')₂, -SR', -SOR', -SO₂R', -C(O)R', -OC(O)R', -COOR' or -CON(R')₂, wherein R' is independently selected from:

hydrogen,

(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

15 (C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,

(C1-C12)-aliphatic-

[(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],

(C6-C10)-aryl,

(C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,

20 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,

(C6-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,

(C5-C10)-heteroaryl, or

(C5-C10)-heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic;

R₁ and R₃ are independently:

25 (C1-C12)-aliphatic,

(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,

(C1-C12)-aliphatic-

[(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],

(C6-C10)-aryl,

30 (C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,

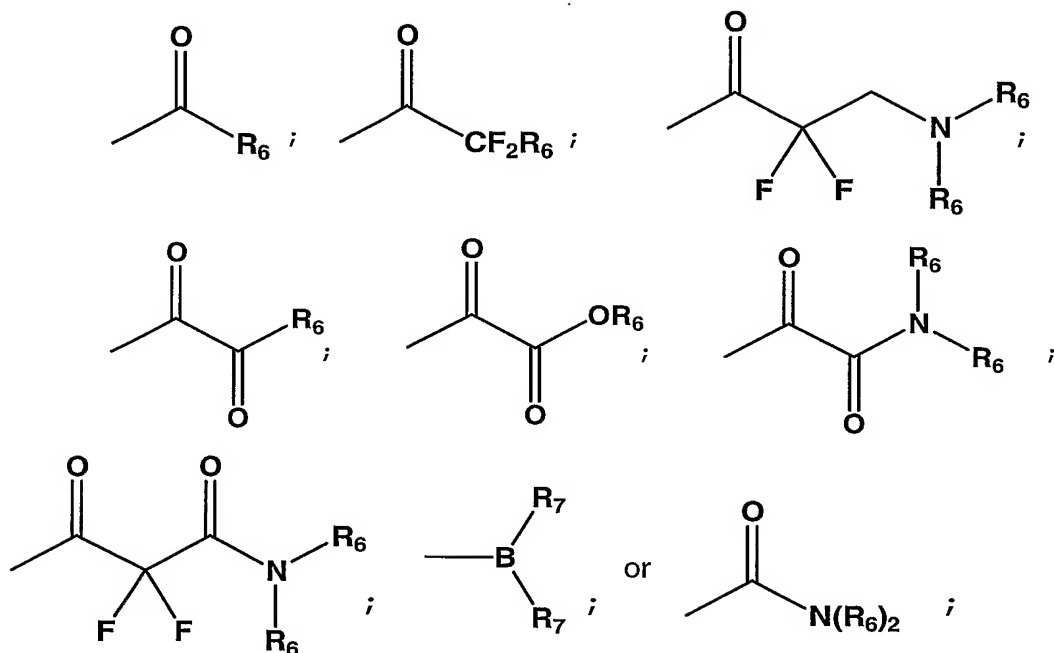
(C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,

(C6-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,

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- (C5-C10)-heteroaryl, or
(C5-C10)-heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
wherein each of R_1 and R_3 is independently and
optionally substituted with up to 3
5 substituents independently selected from J;
wherein up to 3 aliphatic carbon atoms in R_1 and
 R_3 may be replaced by a heteroatom selected from
O, NH, S, SO, or SO_2 in a chemically stable
arrangement;
- 10 R_2 and R_4 are independently
hydrogen,
(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic, or
(C6-C10)aryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
15 wherein each of R_2 and R_4 is independently and
optionally substituted with up to 3
substituents independently selected from J;
wherein up to two aliphatic carbon atoms in R_2
and R_4 may be replaced by a heteroatom selected
20 from O, NH, S, SO, or SO_2 in a chemically stable
arrangement;
- Z is a carbon atom, -CHR-N-, -HN-CR- or -CHR-CHR-,
-O-CHR-, -S-CHR-, -SO-CHR-, - SO_2 -CHR-, or -N-;
wherein R is aliphatic, aryl, aralkyl or cycloalkyl;
- 25 R_5 is -(C1-C12) aliphatic, wherein any hydrogen is
optionally substituted with halogen, and wherein any
hydrogen or halogen atom bound to any terminal carbon
atom of R_5 is optionally substituted with sulfhydryl or
hydroxy;
- 30 W is selected from: -C(O)OH;

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5 wherein each R₆ is independently:

hydrogen,

(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

(C1-C12)-aliphatic-

[(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],

10 (C6-C10)-aryl,

(C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,

(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,

(C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,

(C3-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

15 (C5-C10)heteroaryl, or

(C5-C10)heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic, or

two R₆ groups, which are bound to the same nitrogen atom, form together with that nitrogen atom, a (C3-C10)-heterocyclic ring;

20 wherein R₆ is optionally substituted with up to 3 J substituents;

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each R₇ is hydroxy, alkoxy, or aryloxy; or

each R₇ is an oxygen atom linked to an aliphatic group and, together with the boron to which they are each bound, the two R₇ groups form a 3-6 membered ring;

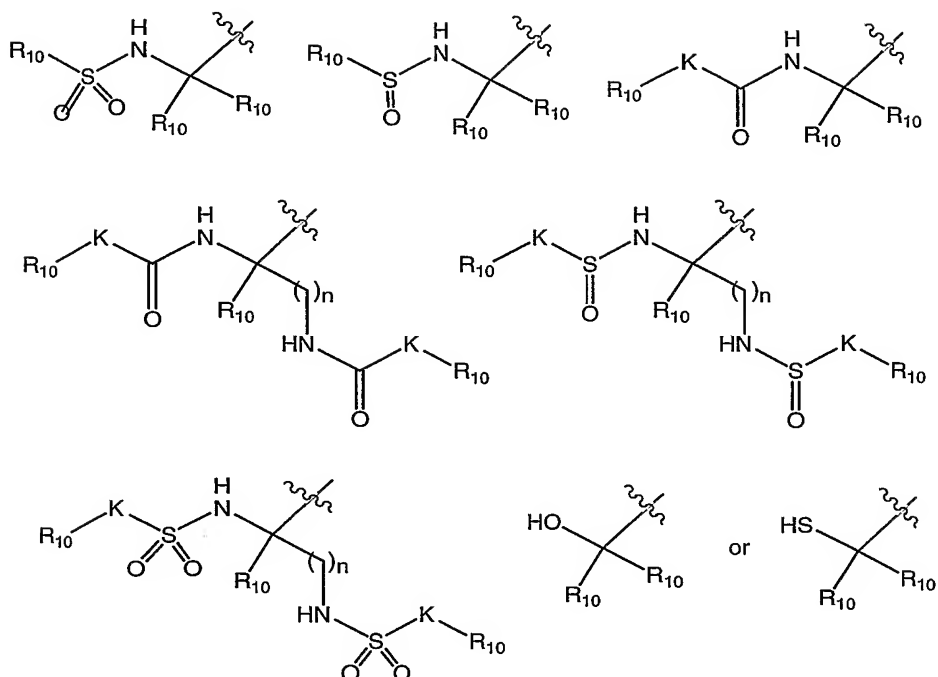
5 V is a bond, -CH(R₈)-, -N(R₈)-, -O-, -O-CH(R₈),
 -CH(R₈)-O-, -S-, -S-CH(R₈)-, -CH(R₈)-S-, -C(O)-, -C(O)-O-,
 -O-C(O)-, -C(O)-S-, -C(O)-CHR₈-, -CHR₈-C(O)-, -N(R₈)C(O)-
 -C(O)N(R₈)-, -S(O)-, -S(O)-CH(R₈), -CH(R₈)-S(O)-,
 -S(O)N(R₈)-, -N(R₈)S(O)-, -S(O)-N(R₈)-CHR₈-, -N(R₈)-S(O)-
 10 CHR₈-, -CHR₈-S(O)₂-, -S(O)₂-CH(R₈)-, -CH(R₈)-S(O)₂-,
 -S(O)₂N(R₈)-, -N(R₈)-S(O)₂-, -S(O)₂-N(R₈)-CHR₈ or -N(R₈)-
 S(O)₂-CHR₈;

wherein R₈ is hydrogen or (C1-C12)-aliphatic;

T is selected from:

15 (C6-C10)-aryl,
 (C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,
 (C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,
 (C1-C12)-aliphatic-
 [(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],
 20 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,
 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
 (C5-C10)heteroaryl, or
 (C5-C10)heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic; or

T is selected from:



wherein:

R_{10} is:

hydrogen,

5

(C1-C12) -aliphatic,

(C1-C12) -aliphatic-

[(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],

(C6-C10)-aryl,

(C6-C10)-aryl- (C1-C12)aliphatic,

10

(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,

(C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,

(C3-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

(C5-C10)-heteroaryl, or

(C5-C10)-heteroaryl- (C1-C12)-aliphatic,

15

wherein each T is optionally substituted with up to

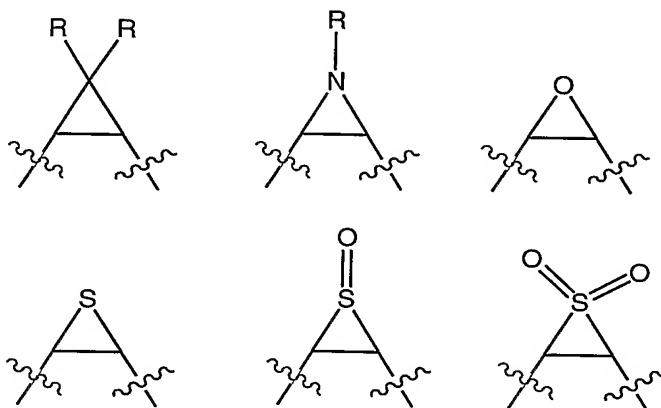
3 J substituents;

- 50 -

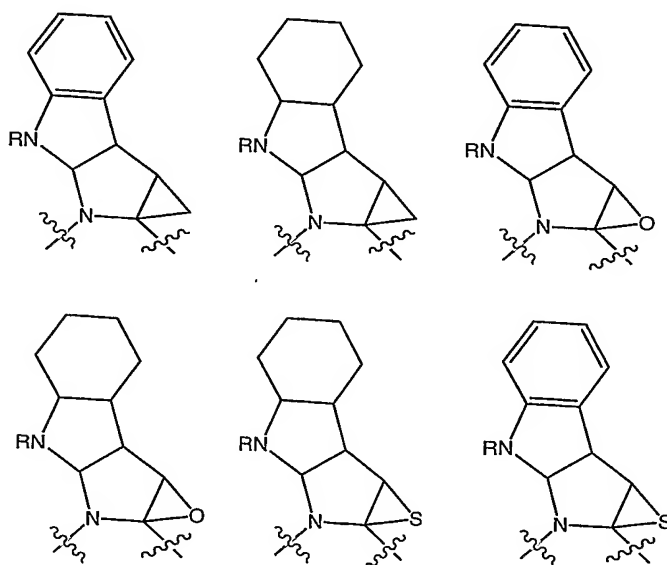
K is a bond, (C1-C12)-aliphatic, -O-, -S-, -NR₉-, -C(O)-, or -C(O)-NR₉-, wherein R₉ is hydrogen or (C1-C12)-aliphatic; and

n is 1-3.

- 5 In compounds of formula (II), ring C is preferably selected from:

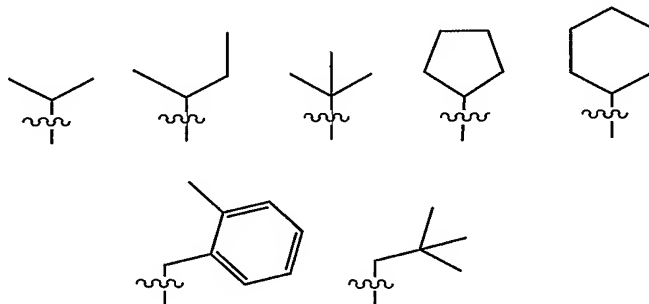


- 10 In compounds of formula (II), rings A and C, together with the ring that they are attached to, are preferably selected from:



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According to another preferred embodiment, R_1 is selected from $-(C1-C10)alkyl$, $-(C3-C7)cycloalkyl$, or $-((C1-C6)alkyl)-((C3-C7)cycloalkyl)$. More preferably, R_1 is selected from:

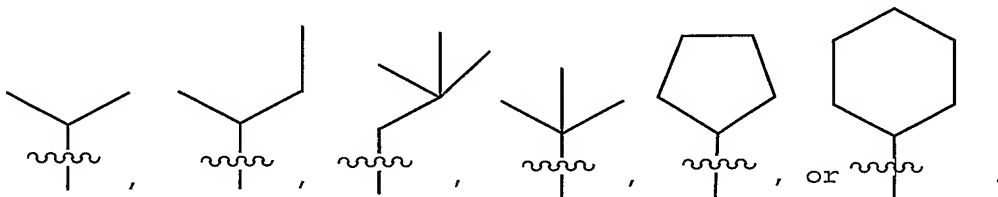


Even more preferably, R_1 is selected from $-CH_2-C(CH_3)_3$, $-C(CH_3)_3$, $-CH(CH_3)_2$, $-CH(CH_3)-CH_2-CH_3$, or cyclohexyl. Most preferably R_1 is cyclohexyl.

10 According to another preferred embodiment, R_2 is $(C1-C12)-aliphatic$. More preferably, R_2 is selected from hydrogen, methyl, ethyl or propyl. Even more preferably, R_2 is hydrogen or methyl. Most preferably, R_2 is hydrogen.

15 According to another preferred embodiment, R_3 is selected from $-(C1-C10)alkyl$, $-(C3-C7)cycloalkyl$, or $-((C1-C6)alkyl)-((C3-C7)cycloalkyl)$.

More preferably, R_3 is selected from:

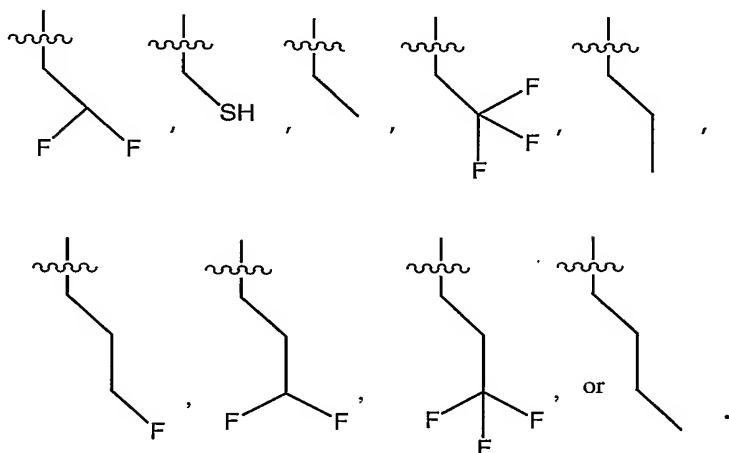


Even more preferably, R₃ is selected from -C(CH₃)₂, -CH(CH₃)₂, -CH(CH₃)-CH₂-CH₃, or cyclohexyl. Most preferably, R₃ is selected from -C(CH₃)₃ or -CH(CH₃)₂.

According to another preferred embodiment, R₄ is (C1-C12)-aliphatic. More preferably, R₄ is selected from hydrogen, methyl, ethyl or propyl. Even more preferably, R₄ is selected from hydrogen.

According to another preferred embodiment, R₅ is -(C2-C7)alkyl optionally substituted with halogen.

10 Preferably, R_5 is selected from:



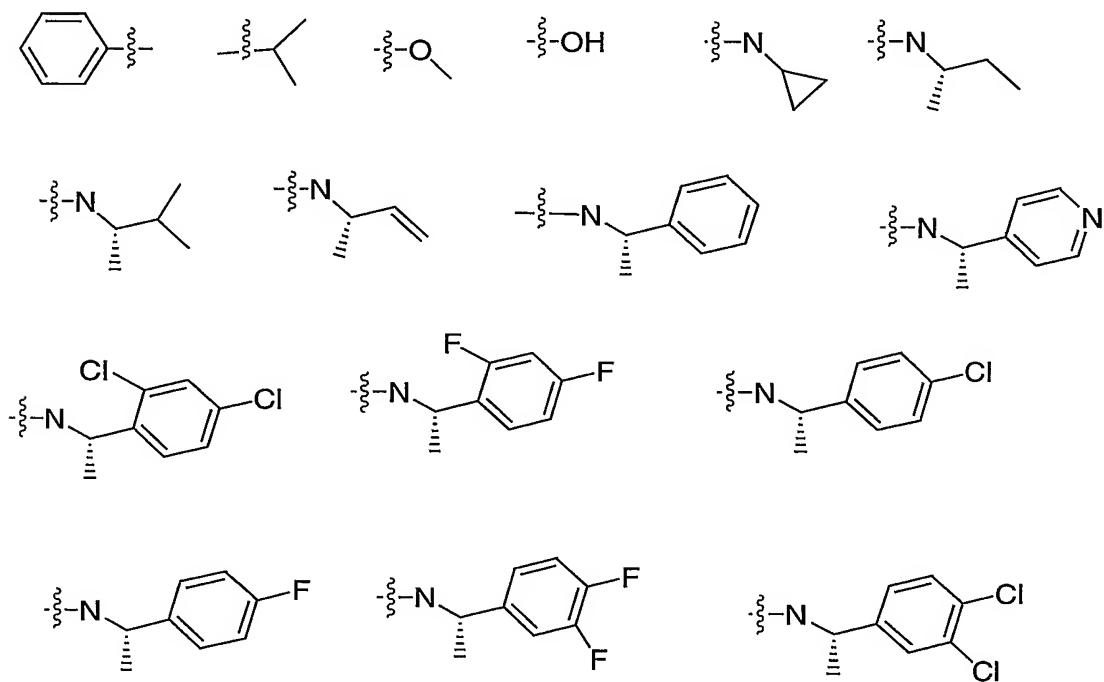
More preferably, R₅ is selected from -CH₂CH₂CH₃,
-CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃, -CH₂CH₂CH₂F, -CH₂CH₂CHF₂, or -CH₂CH₂CF₃. Even
15 more preferably, R₅ is selected from -CH₂CH₂CH₃,
-CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃ or -CH₂CH₂CHF₂. Most preferably, R₅ is
-CH₂CH₂CH₃ or -CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃.

According to another preferred embodiment W is selected from: CHO, -C(O)-R₆, -CO₂H, -C(O)-C(O)-R₆, or
20 -C(O)-C(O)-NH(R₆), wherein R₆ is selected from hydrogen, aryl, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl, C3-C6 alkyl, C3-C6 cycloalkyl, hydroxy, -O-C1-C6 alkyl, wherein -NH(R₆) is selected from -NH-(C3-C6 cycloalkyl), NH-aralkyl, -NH-

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alkylheteroaryl, -NH-alkylheterocyclyl, and wherein said aryl, heterocyclyl or heteroaryl is optionally substituted with up to 3 halogen atoms.

More preferably, R_6 or -NH(R_6) is selected from:



5

According to another preferred embodiment W is selected from -C(O)OH or -C(O)-C(O)- R_6 . More preferably, W is -C(O)-C(O)- R_6 . Preferably, R_6 is isopropyl.

10 According to a preferred embodiment, W is -C(O)-C(O)- R_6 . Preferably, R_6 is isopropyl.

According to another preferred embodiment, W is -C(O)-C(O)-OR₆. Preferably, R_6 is hydrogen, (C1-C12)-aliphatic, (C6-C10)-aryl, (C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or
 15 -cycloalkenyl, (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl or (C5-C10)heteroaryl. More preferably, R_6 is H or methyl.

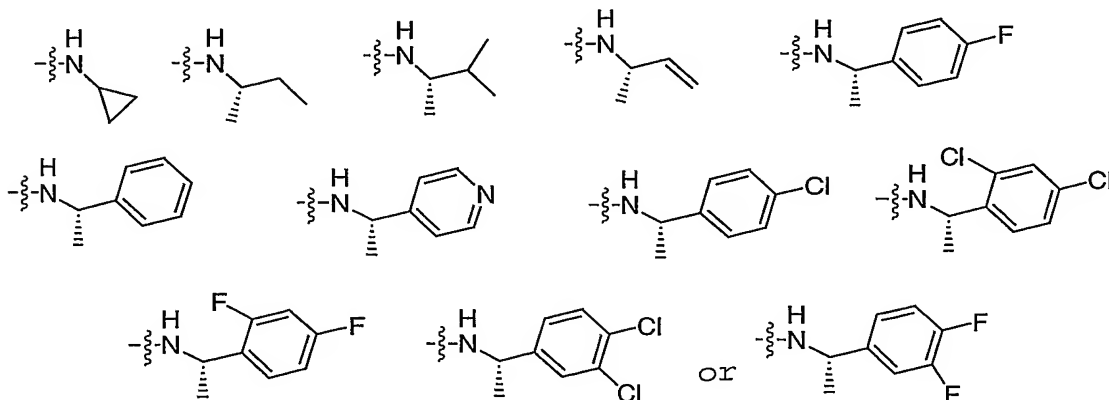
- 54 -

According to yet another preferred embodiment, W is $-C(O)-C(O)-N(R_6)_2$. Preferably, R_6 is hydrogen, (C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl, or (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl.

5 In another preferred embodiment of compounds of formula (II) is where W is $C(O)-C(O)-N(R_6)_2$, the NR_6R_6 portion of the W moiety is $-NH-(C3-C6)$ cycloalkyl, $-NH-CH(CH_3)-(C6-C10)$ aryl or $-NH-CH(CH_3)-(C3-C10)$ heterocyclyl, or $-NH-CH(CH_3)-(C5-C10)$ heteroaryl, 10 wherein said aryl, heterocyclyl, or heteroaryl is optionally substituted with halogen.

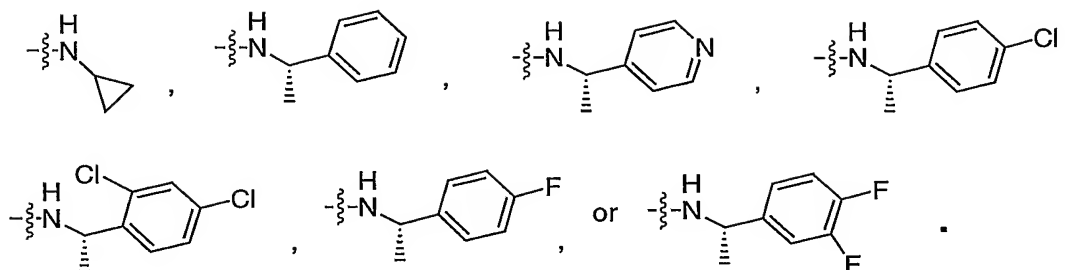
Alternatively, the NR_6R_6 portion is $-NH-(C3-C6)$ cycloalkyl, $-NH-CH(CH_3)-(C6-C10)$ aryl, or $-NH-CH(CH_3)-(C5-C10)$ heteroaryl, wherein said aryl or said 15 heterocyclyl is optionally substituted with halogen; or NR_6R_6 is $-NH-(C3-C6)$ cycloalkyl, $-NH-CH(CH_3)-(C6-C10)$ aryl, or $-NH-CH(CH_3)-(C3-C10)$ heterocyclyl, wherein said aryl or said heterocyclyl is optionally substituted with halogen.

In other preferred embodiment of formula (II), 20 NR_6R_6 in W is:

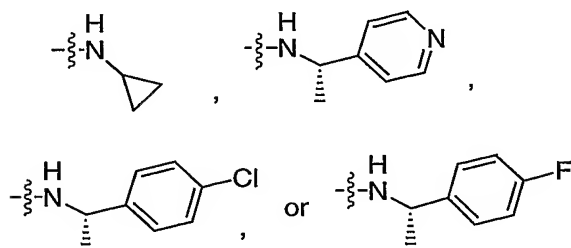


More preferably, NR_6R_6 is:

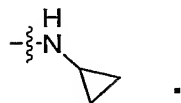
- 55 -



Even more preferably, NR_6R_6 is:



5 Most preferably, NR_6R_6 is:



According to another preferred embodiment, when W is $\text{--B(R}_7)_2$, each R_7 is selected from hydroxy, alkoxy, or aryloxy.

According to yet another preferred embodiment, when W is $\text{--B(R}_7)_2$, each R_7 is selected from an oxygen atom linked to an aliphatic group and, together with the boron to which they are each bound, the two R_7 groups form a 5-8 membered ring.

According to another preferred embodiment, V is a bond, $\text{--CH(R}_8)\text{--}$, $\text{--N(R}_8)\text{--}$, --O-- , $\text{--O--CH(R}_8)\text{--}$, --S-- , $\text{--S--CH(R}_8)\text{--}$, --C(O)-- , --C(O)--O-- , --C(O)--S-- , $\text{--C(O)--CHR}_8\text{--}$, $\text{--C(O)N(R}_8)\text{--}$, --S(O)-- , $\text{--S(O)--CH(R}_8)\text{--}$, $\text{--S(O)N(R}_8)\text{--}$, $\text{--S(O)--N(R}_8)\text{--CHR}_8\text{--}$, --S(O)_2 , $\text{--S--(O)}_2\text{--CH(R}_8)\text{--}$, $\text{--S(O)}_2\text{N(R}_8)\text{--}$, or $\text{--S(O)}_2\text{--N(R}_8)\text{--CHR}_8$; wherein R_8 is hydrogen or --(C1-C3)alkyl ;

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According to another preferred embodiment, V is -NH-.

According to yet another preferred embodiment, V is -C(O)-.

5 According to yet another preferred embodiment, V is -C(O)-NR₈-. More preferably, V is -C(O)-NH-.

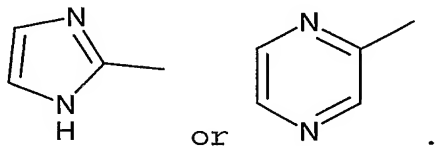
According to yet another preferred embodiment T is a heterocyclyl or heteroaryl, optionally having up to 3 substituents as defined above.

10 According to yet another preferred embodiment, T is a -(C₅-C₁₀)heteroaryl.

According to yet another preferred embodiment, T is selected from 3-1H-benzimidazol-2-one, 3-(1-alkyl)-benzimidazol-2-one, 2-tetrahydrofuranyl, 3-
15 tetrahydrofuranyl, pyrazolinyl, 1,3-dihydro-imidazol-2-one, 2-imidazolyl, 4-imidazolyl, 5-imidazolyl, 2-oxazolyl, 4-oxazolyl, 5-oxazolyl, 2-pyrrolyl, 3-pyrrolyl, 2-pyrimidinyl, 4-pyrimidinyl, 5-pyrimidinyl, 5-tetrazolyl, pyrazolyl, pyrazinyl or 1,3,5-triazinyl.

20 Even more preferably, T is selected from 3-1H-benzimidazol-2-one, 3-(1-alkyl)-benzimidazol-2-one, pyrazolinyl, 1,3-dihydro-imidazol-2-one, 2-imidazolyl, 2-pyrrolyl, 2-pyrimidinyl, 5-pyrimidinyl, 5-tetrazolyl or pyrazinyl.

25 Most preferred is when T or R⁷ is selected from:

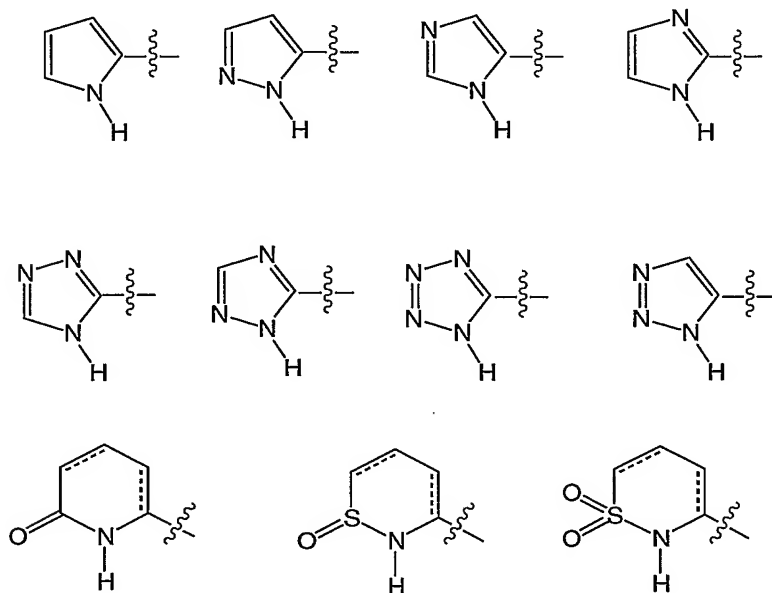


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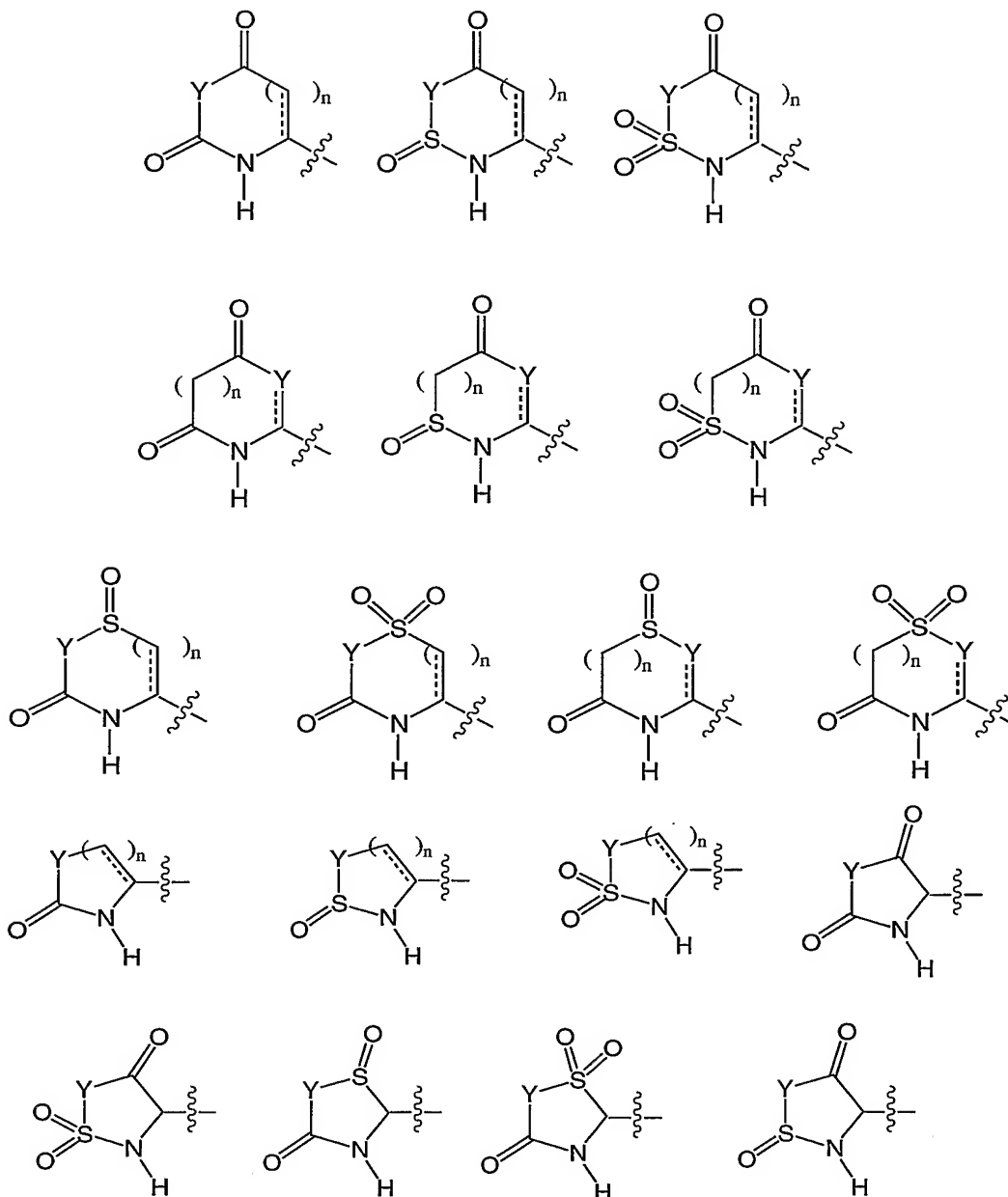
Preferred substituents on T in the above embodiments are halogen, $-\text{CF}_3$, $-\text{OCF}_3$, oxo, $-\text{COOR}'$, or $-\text{CON}(\text{R}')_2$, wherein R' is as defined above.

According to another preferred embodiment of this invention, T contains at least one hydrogen bond donor moiety selected from $-\text{NH}_2$, $-\text{NH}-$, $-\text{OH}$, and $-\text{SH}$.

In a preferred embodiment, T is:



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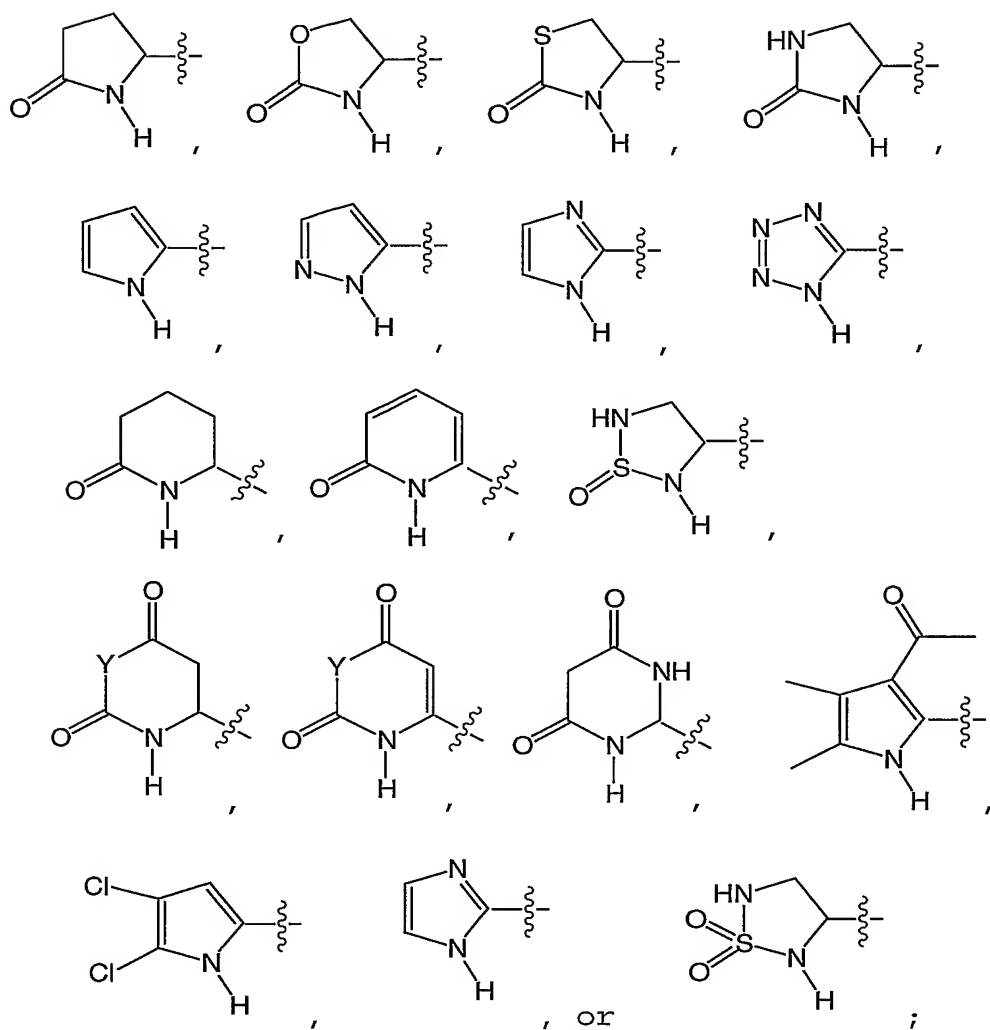


wherein:

- 5 T is optionally substituted with up to 3 J substituents, wherein J is as defined in claim 1;
- Y is independently O, S, NR₁₀, or C(R₁₀)₂;
- n is independently 1 or 2; and
- is independently a single bond or a double bond.

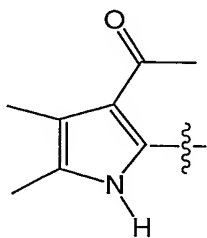
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In another preferred embodiment, T is:



wherein Y is as defined above.

More preferably T is

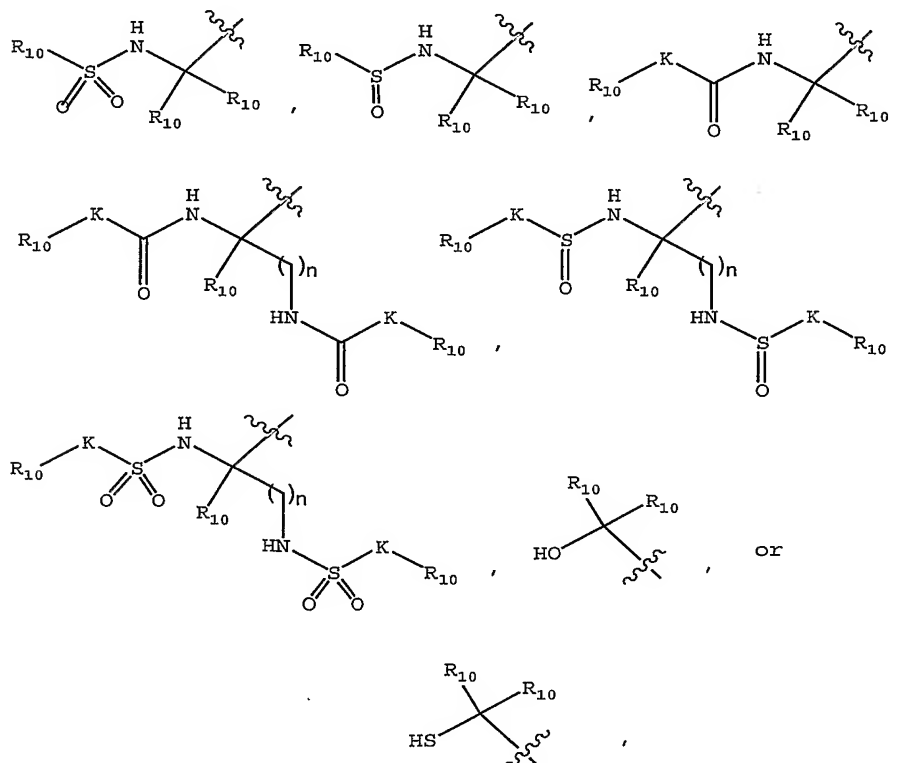


5

According to yet another preferred embodiment,
T is:

(C6-C10)-aryl,
(C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,
(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,
[(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl]-(C1-C12)-
5 aliphatic,
(C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,
(C3-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
(C5-C10)heteroaryl, or
(C5-C10)heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
10 wherein each T is optionally substituted with up to
3 J substituents.

According to yet another preferred embodiment of this invention, T:



15

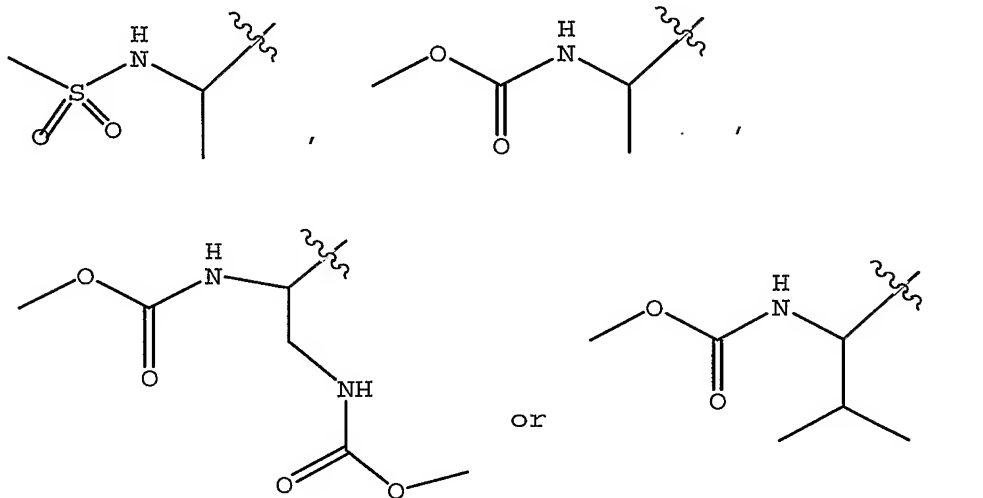
wherein:

R_{10} is:

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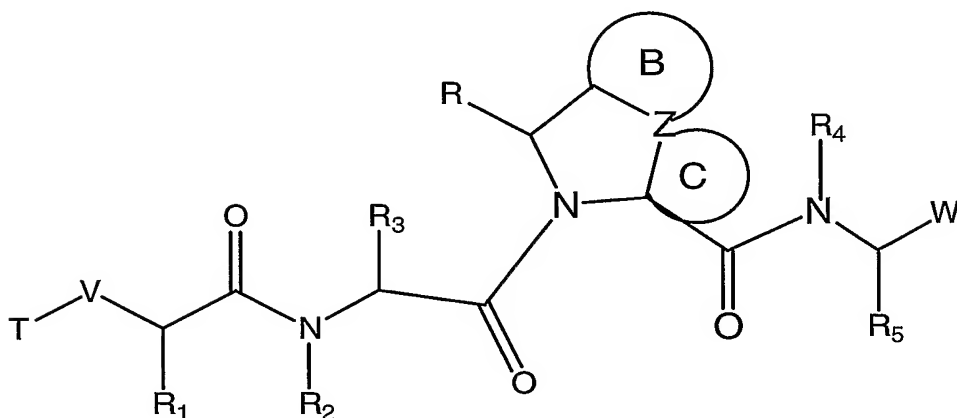
- hydrogen,
 (C1-C12)-aliphatic,
 (C6-C10)-aryl,
 (C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12) aliphatic,
 5 (C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,
 [(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl]-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,
 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
 10 (C5-C10)heteroaryl, or
 (C5-C10)heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
 wherein each T is optionally substituted with up to
 3 J substituents;
 K is a bond, -O-, -S-, -NR₉-, -C(O)-, or -C(O)-NR₉-,
 15 wherein R₉ is hydrogen or C1-C12 aliphatic; and
 n is 1-3.

More preferably, T is:



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According to another embodiment, the present invention provides compounds of formula (III):



(III)

5 wherein:

ring B is a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring,
wherein ring B is optionally fused to a carbocyclic,
heterocyclic or heteroaryl ring;

wherein ring B has up to 3 substituents selected
10 independently from J;

ring C is a cycloalkyl or heterocyclic ring;

wherein ring C has up to 3 substituents selected
independently from J;

Z is a carbon atom, -CHR-N-, -HN-CR- or -CHR-CHR-;

15 wherein, rings B and C are attached to the same
carbon atom in Z; or

rings B and C are attached vicinally to Z when Z is
-CHR-N-, -HN-CR- or -CHR-CHR-;

wherein R is aliphatic, aryl, aralkyl or cycloalkyl;

20 J is halogen, -OR', -NO₂, -CF₃, -OCF₃, -R', oxo, -O-
benzyl, -O-phenyl, 1,2-methylenedioxy, 1,2-ethylenedioxy,
-N(R')₂, -SR', -SOR', -SO₂R', -C(O)R', -OC(O)R', -COOR' or
-CON(R')₂, wherein R' is independently selected from:

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hydrogen,

(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,

(C1-C12)-aliphatic-

5 [(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],

(C6-C10)-aryl,

(C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12) aliphatic,

(C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,

(C6-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12) aliphatic,

10 (C5-C10)-heteroaryl, or

(C5-C10)-heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic;

R₁ and R₃ are independently:

(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,

15 (C1-C12)-aliphatic-

[(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],

(C6-C10)-aryl,

(C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12) aliphatic,

(C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,

20 (C6-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12) aliphatic,

(C5-C10)-heteroaryl, or

(C5-C10)-heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

wherein each of R₁ and R₃ is independently and

optionally substituted with up to 3

25 substituents independently selected from J;

wherein up to 3 aliphatic carbon atoms in R₁ and

R₃ may be replaced by a heteroatom selected from

O, NH, S, SO, or SO₂ in a chemically stable

arrangement;

30 R₂ and R₄ are independently

hydrogen,

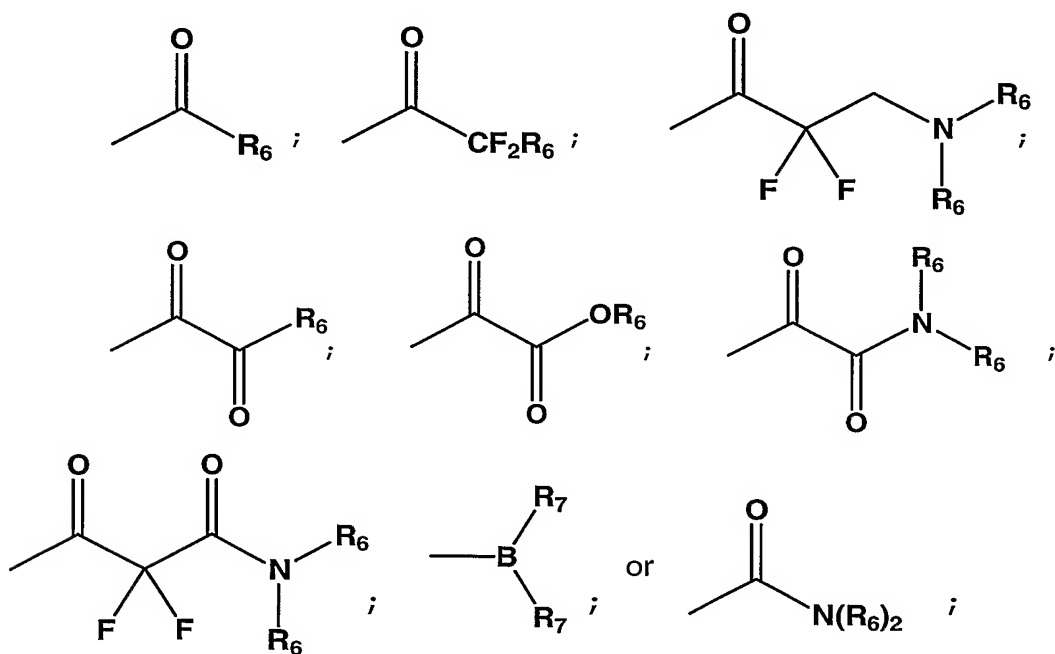
(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

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(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic, or
 (C6-C10)aryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
 wherein each of R_2 and R_4 is independently and
 optionally substituted with up to 3
 5 substituents independently selected from J;
 wherein up to two aliphatic carbon atoms in R_2
 and R_4 may be replaced by a heteroatom selected
 from O, NH, S, SO, or SO₂ in a chemically stable
 arrangement;

10 R_5 is -(C1-C12) aliphatic, wherein any hydrogen is
 optionally substituted with halogen, and wherein any
 hydrogen or halogen atom bound to any terminal carbon
 atom of R_5 is optionally substituted with sulfhydryl or
 hydroxy;

15 W is selected from: -C(O)OH;



20 wherein each R_6 is independently:
 hydrogen,
 (C1-C12)-aliphatic,

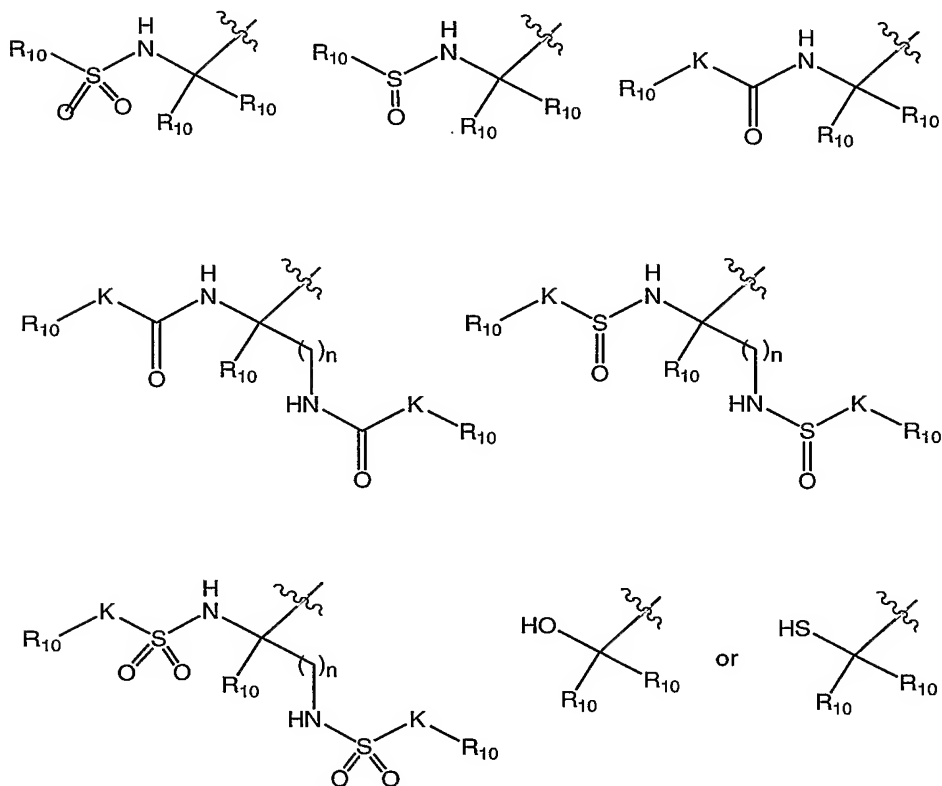
- 65 -

- (C1-C12)-aliphatic-
 [(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],
 (C6-C10)-aryl,
 (C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,
 5 (C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,
 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,
 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
 (C5-C10)heteroaryl, or
 (C5-C10)heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic, or
 10 two R₆ groups, which are bound to the same nitrogen
 atom, form together with that nitrogen atom, a (C3-C10)-
 heterocyclic ring;
 wherein R₆ is optionally substituted with up to 3 J
 substituents;
 15 each R₇ is hydroxy, alkoxy, or aryloxy; or
 each R₇ is an oxygen atom linked to an aliphatic
 group and, together with the boron to which they are each
 bound, the two R₇ groups form a 3-6 membered ring;
 V is a bond, -CH(R₈)-, -N(R₈)-, -O-, -O-CH(R₈),
 20 -CH(R₈)-O-, -S-, -S-CH(R₈)-, -CH(R₈)-S-, -C(O)-, -C(O)-O-,
 -O-C(O)-, -C(O)-S-, -C(O)-CHR₈-, -CHR₈-C(O)- -N(R₈)C(O)-
 -C(O)N(R₈)-, -S(O)-, -S(O)-CH(R₈), -CH(R₈)-S(O)-,
 -S(O)N(R₈)-, -N(R₈)S(O)-, -S(O)-N(R₈)-CHR₈, -N(R₈)-S(O)-
 CHR₈-, -CHR₈-S(O)₂, -S(O)₂-CH(R₈)-, -CH(R₈)-S(O)₂-,
 25 -S(O)₂N(R₈)-, -N(R₈)-S(O)₂-, -S(O)₂-N(R₈)-CHR₈ or -N(R₈)-
 S(O)₂-CHR₈;
 wherein R₈ is hydrogen or (C1-C12)-aliphatic;
 T is selected from:
 (C6-C10)-aryl,
 30 (C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,
 (C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,
 (C1-C12)-aliphatic-

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- [(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],
 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,
 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
 (C5-C10)heteroaryl, or
 5 (C5-C10)heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic; or

T is selected from:



10 wherein:

R₁₀ is:

- hydrogen,
 (C1-C12)-aliphatic,
 (C1-C12)-aliphatic-
 15 [(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],
 (C6-C10)-aryl,

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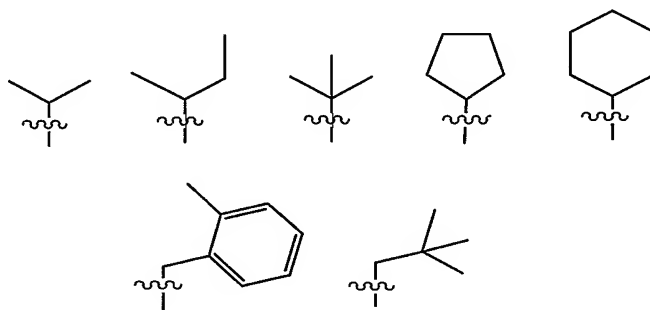
(C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,
 (C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,
 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,
 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
 5 (C5-C10)-heteroaryl, or
 (C5-C10)-heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

wherein each T is optionally substituted with up to
 3 J substituents;

K is a bond, (C1-C12)-aliphatic, -O-, -S-, -NR₉-,
 10 -C(O)-, or -C(O)-NR₉-, wherein R₉ is hydrogen or (C1-C12)-
 aliphatic; and

n is 1-3.

According to a preferred embodiment, R₁ is
 selected from -(C1-C10)alkyl, -(C3-C7)cycloalkyl, or
 15 -((C1-C6)alkyl)-((C3-C7)cycloalkyl). More preferably, R₁
 is selected from:



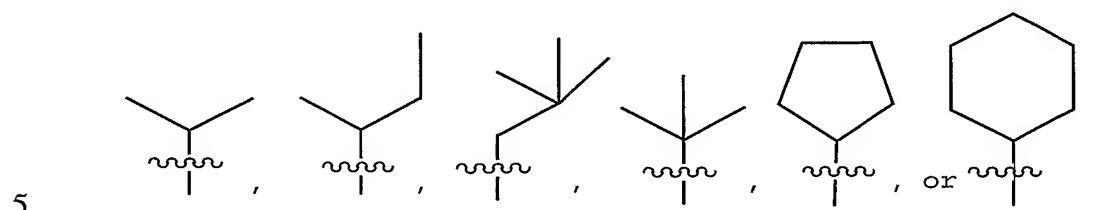
Even more preferably, R₁ is selected from
 -CH₂-C(CH₃)₃, -C(CH₃)₃, -CH(CH₃)₂, -CH(CH₃)-CH₂-CH₃, or
 20 cyclohexyl. Most preferably R₁ is cyclohexyl.

According to another preferred embodiment, R₂ is
 (C1-C12)-aliphatic. More preferably, R₂ is selected from
 hydrogen, methyl, ethyl or propyl. Even more preferably,
 R₂ is hydrogen or methyl. Most preferably, R₂ is
 25 hydrogen.

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According to another preferred embodiment, R_3 is selected from $-(C1-C10)alkyl$, $-(C3-C7)cycloalkyl$, or $-((C1-C6)alkyl)-((C3-C7)cycloalkyl)$.

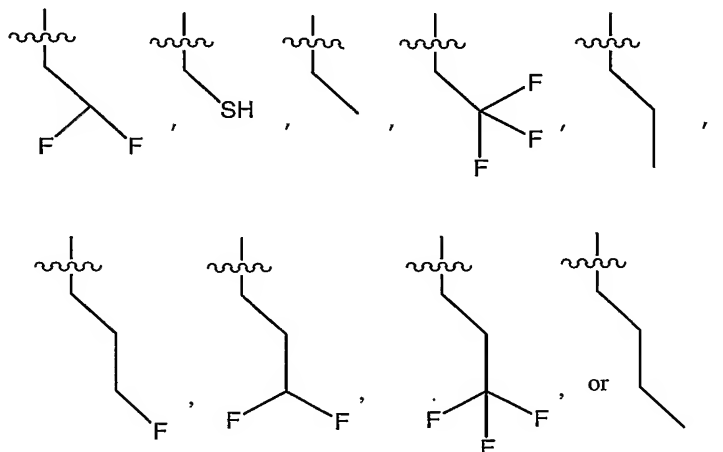
More preferably, R_3 is selected from:



Even more preferably, R_3 is selected from $-C(CH_3)_2$, $-CH(CH_3)_2$, $-CH(CH_3)-CH_2-CH_3$, or cyclohexyl. Most preferably, R_3 is selected from $-C(CH_3)_3$ or $-CH(CH_3)_2$.

10 According to another preferred embodiment, R_4 is $(C1-C12)$ -aliphatic. More preferably, R_4 is selected from hydrogen, methyl, ethyl or propyl. Even more preferably, R_4 is selected from hydrogen.

15 According to another preferred embodiment, R_5 is $-(C2-C7)alkyl$ optionally substituted with halogen. Preferably, R_5 is selected from:



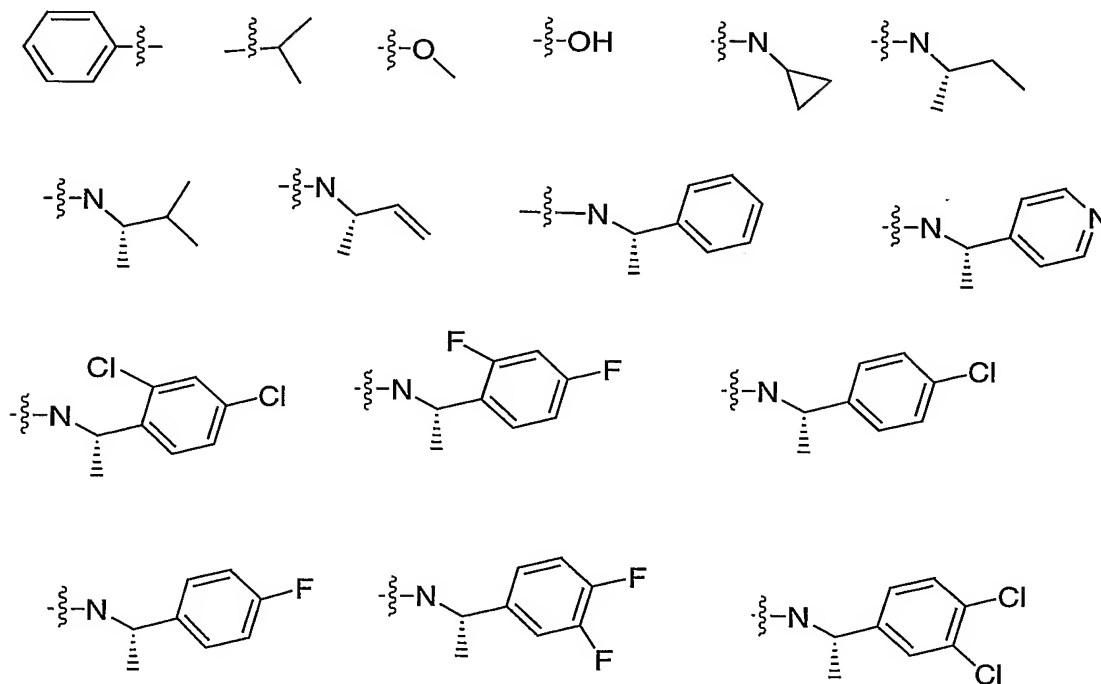
20 More preferably, R_5 is selected from $-CH_2CH_2CH_3$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_3$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2F$, $-CH_2CH_2CHF_2$, or $-CH_2CH_2CF_3$. Even

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more preferably, R_5 is selected from $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$,
 $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ or $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CHF}_2$. Most preferably, R_5 is
 $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ or $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$.

According to another preferred embodiment W is
 5 selected from: CHO , $-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{R}_6$, $-\text{CO}_2\text{H}$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{R}_6$, or
 $-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{NH}(\text{R}_6)$, wherein R_6 is selected from hydrogen,
 aryl, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl, C3-C6 alkyl, C3-C6
 cycloalkyl, hydroxy, $-\text{O}-\text{C1-C6}$ alkyl, wherein $-\text{NH}(\text{R}_6)$ is
 selected from $-\text{NH}-(\text{C3-C6 cycloalkyl})$, NH-aralkyl , $-\text{NH}-$
 10 alkylheteroaryl , $-\text{NH-alkylheterocyclyl}$, and wherein said
 aryl, heterocyclyl or heteroaryl is optionally
 substituted with up to 3 halogen atoms.

More preferably, R_6 or $-\text{NH}(\text{R}_6)$ is selected from:



15

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According to another preferred embodiment W is selected from -C(O)OH or -C(O)-C(O)-R₆. More preferably, W is -C(O)-C(O)-R₆. Preferably, R₆ is isopropyl.

According to a preferred embodiment, W is
5 -C(O)-C(O)-R₆. Preferably, R₆ is isopropyl.

According to another preferred embodiment, W is -C(O)-C(O)-OR₆. Preferably, R₆ is hydrogen, (C1-C12)-aliphatic, (C6-C10)-aryl, (C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl, (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl or (C5-
10 C10)heteroaryl. More preferably, R₆ is H or methyl.

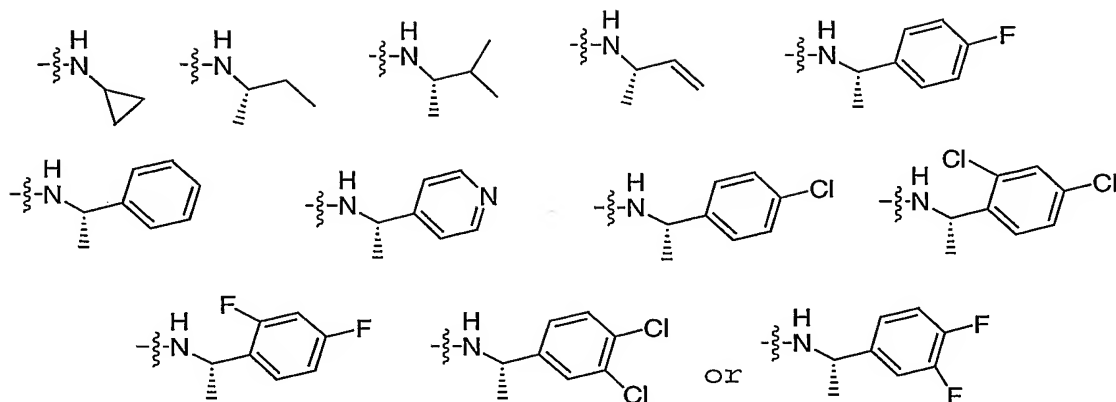
According to yet another preferred embodiment, W is -C(O)-C(O)-N(R₆)₂. Preferably, R₆ is hydrogen, (C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl, or (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl.

15 In another preferred embodiment of compounds of formula (III) is where W is C(O)-C(O)-N(R₆)₂, the NR₆R₆ portion of the W moiety is -NH-(C3-C6)cycloalkyl, -NH-CH(CH₃)-(C6-C10)aryl or -NH-CH(CH₃)-(C3-C10)heterocyclyl, or -NH-CH(CH₃)-(C5-C10)heteroaryl,
20 wherein said aryl, heterocyclyl, or heteroaryl is optionally substituted with halogen.

Alternatively, the NR₆R₆ portion is -NH-(C3-C6)cycloalkyl, -NH-CH(CH₃)-(C6-C10)aryl, or -NH-CH(CH₃)-(C5-C10)heteroaryl, wherein said aryl or said
25 heterocyclyl is optionally substituted with halogen; or NR₆R₆ is -NH-(C3-C6)cycloalkyl, -NH-CH(CH₃)-(C6-C10)aryl, or -NH-CH(CH₃)-(C3-C10)heterocyclyl, wherein said aryl or said heterocyclyl is optionally substituted with halogen.

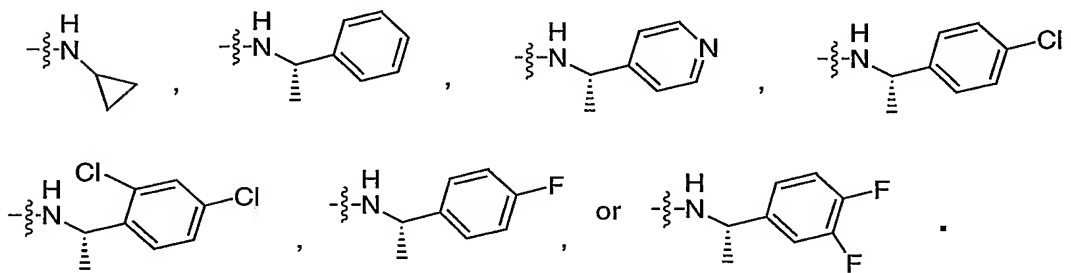
In other preferred embodiment of formula (III),
30 NR₆R₆ in W is:

- 71 -

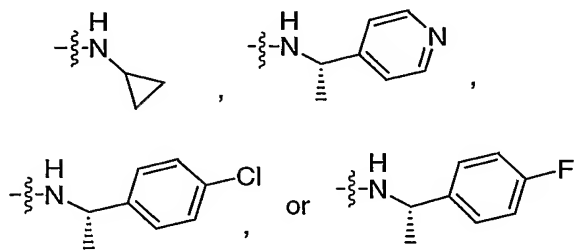


More preferably, NR_6R_6 is:

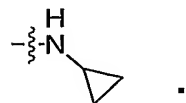
5



Even more preferably, NR_6R_6 is:



Most preferably, NR_6R_6 is:



10

According to another preferred embodiment, when W is $-\text{B}(\text{R}_7)_2$, each R_7 is selected from hydroxy, alkoxy, or aryloxy.

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According to yet another preferred embodiment, when W is $-B(R_7)_2$, each R_7 is selected from an oxygen atom linked to an aliphatic group and, together with the boron to which they are each bound, the two R_7 groups form a 5-8 membered ring.

According to another preferred embodiment, V is a bond, $-CH(R_8)-$, $-N(R_8)-$, $-O-$, $-O-CH(R_8)-$, $-S-$, $-S-CH(R_8)-$, $-C(O)-$, $-C(O)-O-$, $-C(O)-S-$, $-C(O)-CHR_8-$, $-C(O)N(R_8)-$, $-S(O)-$, $-S(O)-CH(R_8)-$, $-S(O)N(R_8)-$, $-S(O)-N(R_8)-CHR_8-$, $-S(O)_2$, $-S(O)_2-CH(R_8)-$, $-S(O)_2N(R_8)-$, or $-S(O)_2-N(R_8)-CHR_8-$; wherein R_8 is hydrogen or $-(C1-C3)alkyl$;

According to another preferred embodiment, V is $-NH-$.

According to yet another preferred embodiment, V is $-C(O)-$.

According to yet another preferred embodiment, V is $-C(O)-NR_8-$. More preferably, V is $-C(O)-NH-$.

According to yet another preferred embodiment T is a heterocyclyl or heteroaryl, optionally having up to 3 substituents as defined above.

According to yet another preferred embodiment, T is a $-(C5-C10)heteroaryl$.

According to yet another preferred embodiment, T is selected from 3-1H-benzimidazol-2-one, 3-(1-alkyl)-benzimidazol-2-one, 2-tetrahydrofuranyl, 3-tetrahydrofuranyl, pyrazolynyl, 1,3-dihydro-imidazol-2-one, 2-imidazolyl, 4-imidazolyl, 5-imidazolyl, 2-oxazolyl, 4-oxazolyl, 5-oxazolyl, 2-pyrrolyl, 3-pyrrolyl, 2-pyrimidinyl, 4-pyrimidinyl, 5-pyrimidinyl, 5-tetrazolyl, pyrazolyl, pyrazinyl or 1,3,5-triazinyl.

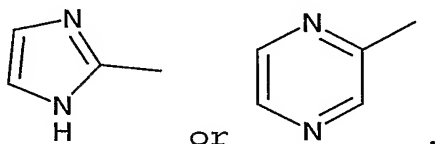
Even more preferably, T is selected from 3-1H-benzimidazol-2-one, 3-(1-alkyl)-benzimidazol-2-one,

- 73 -

pyrazolinyl, 1,3-dihydro-imidazol-2-one, 2-imidazolyl, 2-pyrrolyl, 2-pyrimidinyl, 5-pyrimidinyl, 5-tetrazolyl or pyrazinyl.

Most preferred is when T or R⁷ is selected from:

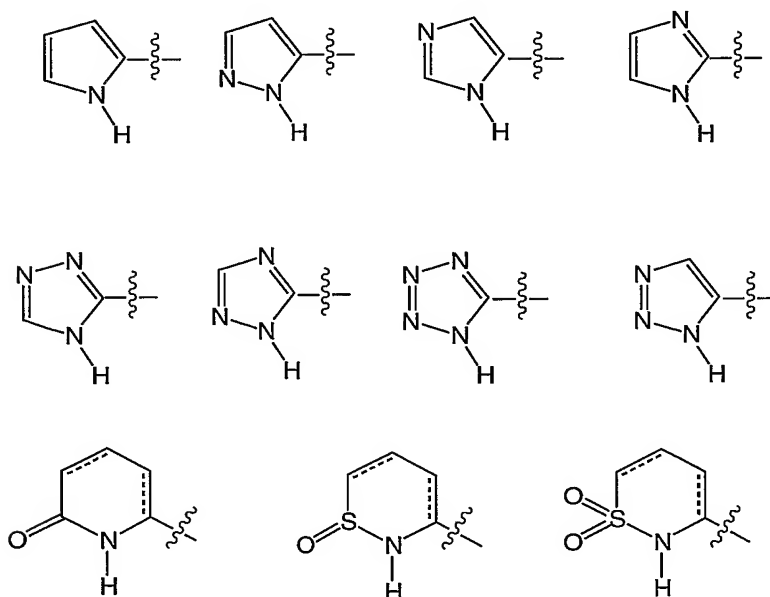
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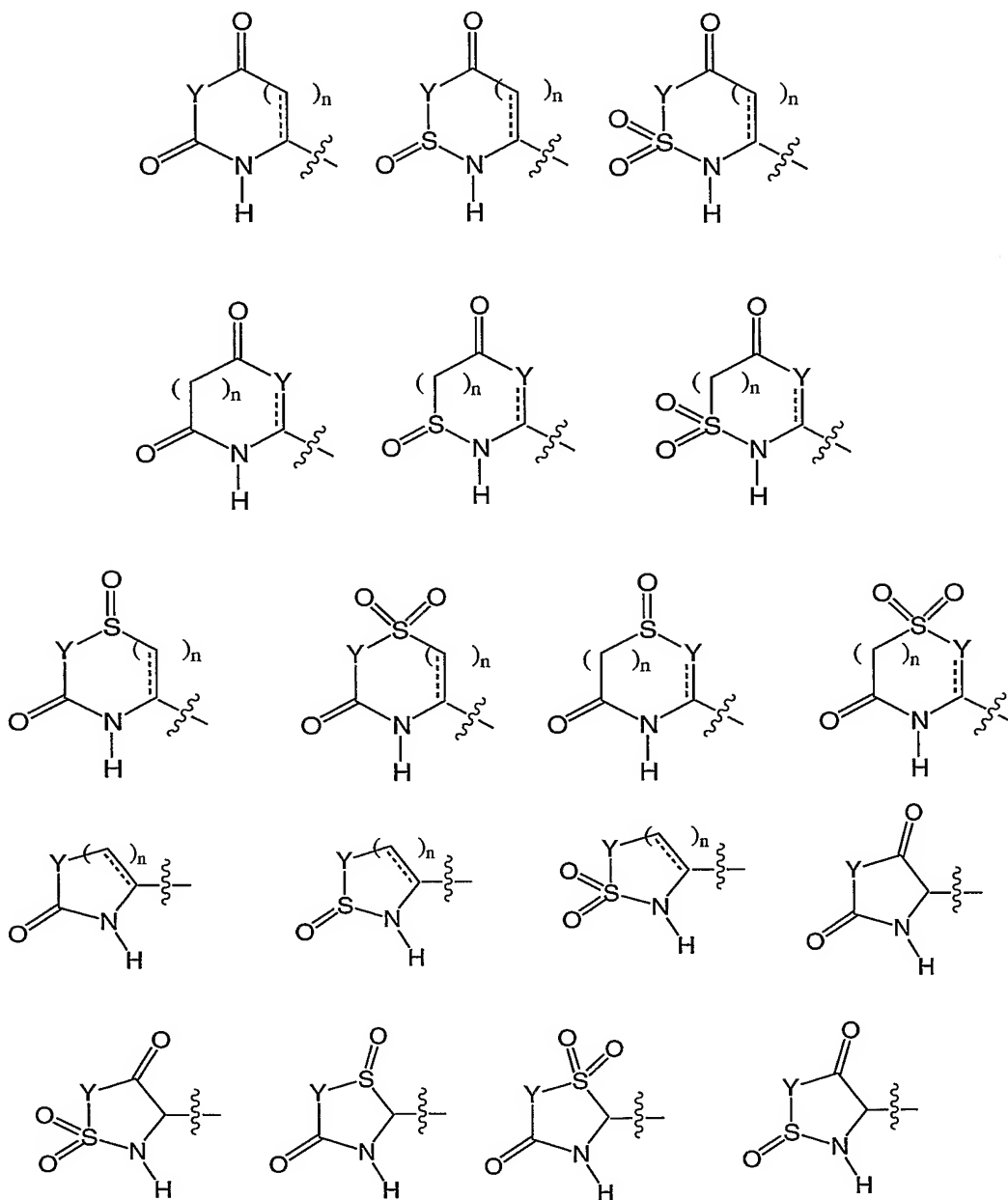
Preferred substituents on T in the above embodiments are halogen, -CF₃, -OCF₃, oxo, -COOR', or
 10 -CON(R')₂, wherein R' is as defined above.

According to another preferred embodiment of this invention, T contains at least one hydrogen bond donor moiety selected from -NH₂, -NH-, -OH, and -SH.

In a preferred embodiment, T is:



15

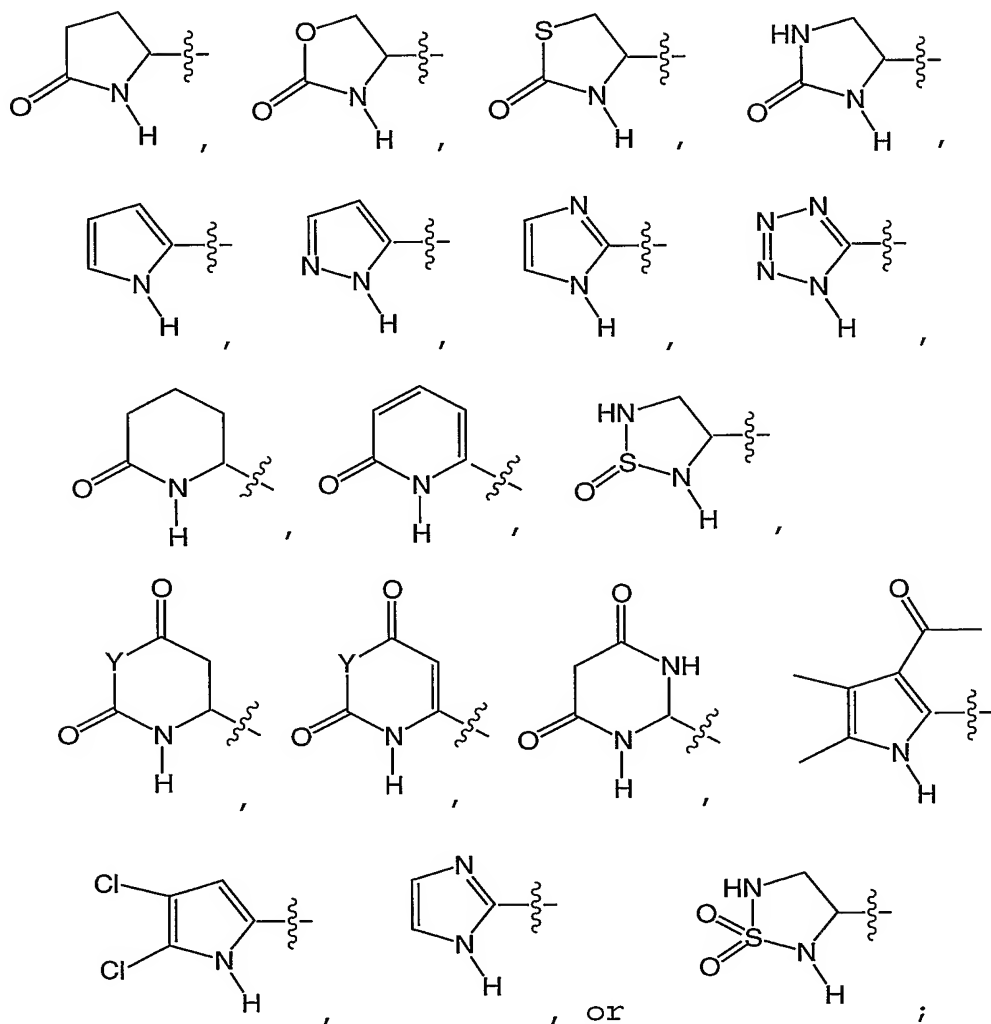


wherein:

- 5 T is optionally substituted with up to 3 J substituents, wherein J is as defined in claim 1;
- Y is independently O, S, NR₁₀, or C(R₁₀)₂;
- n is independently 1 or 2; and
- is independently a single bond or a double bond.

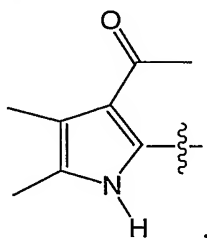
- 75 -

In another preferred embodiment, T is:



wherein Y is as defined above.

More preferably T is



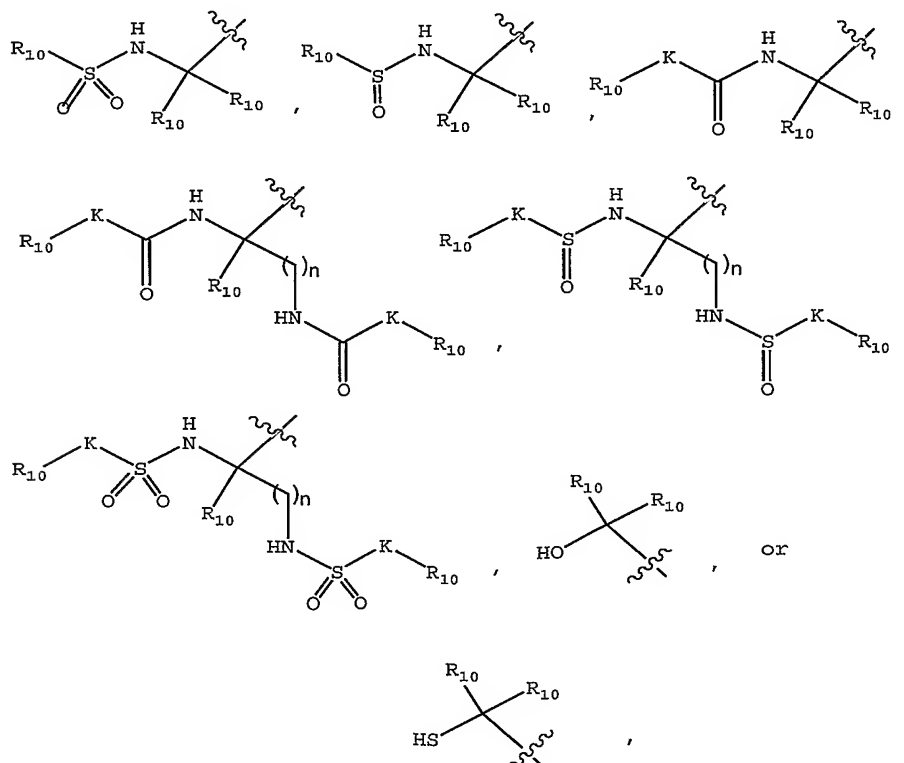
5

According to yet another preferred embodiment,
T is:

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- (C6-C10)-aryl,
 (C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,
 (C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,
 [(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl]-(C1-C12)-
 5 aliphatic,
 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,
 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
 (C5-C10)heteroaryl, or
 (C5-C10)heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
 10 wherein each T is optionally substituted with up to
 3 J substituents.

According to yet another preferred embodiment
 of this invention, T:



15

wherein:

R_{10} is:

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hydrogen,

(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

(C6-C10)-aryl,

(C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12) aliphatic,

5 (C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,

[(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl]-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

(C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,

(C3-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

10 (C5-C10)heteroaryl, or

(C5-C10)heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

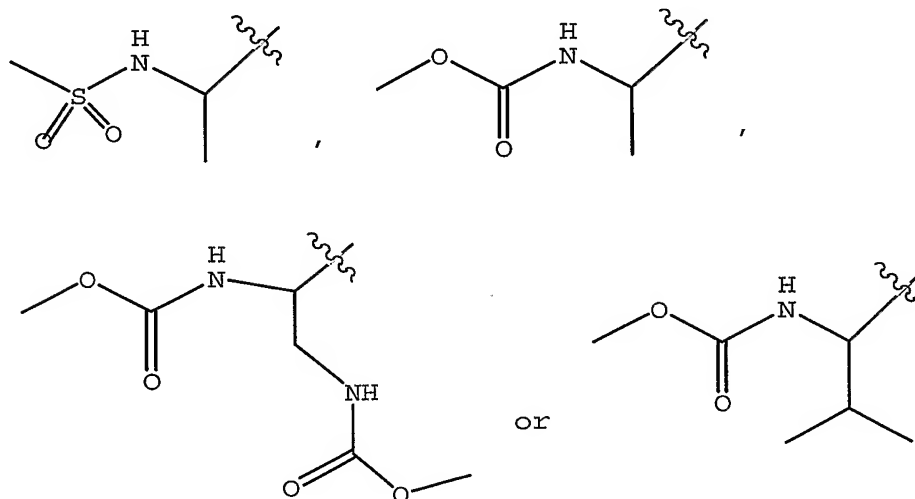
wherein each T is optionally substituted with up to

3 J substituents;

K is a bond, -O-, -S-, -NR₉-, -C(O)-, or -C(O)-NR₉-,15 wherein R₉ is hydrogen or C1-C12 aliphatic; and

n is 1-3.

More preferably, T is:

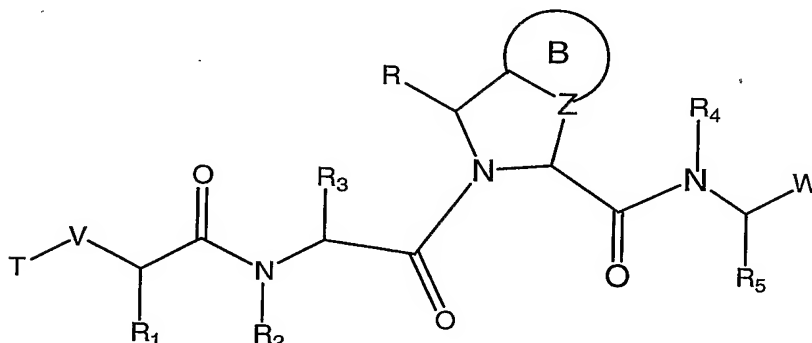


20 In compounds of formula (III), the preferred
embodiments of ring B are as defined for compounds of
formula (I).

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In compounds of formula (III), the preferred embodiments of ring C are as defined for compounds of formula (II).

According to another embodiment, the present
5 invention provides compounds of formula (IV):



(IV)

wherein:

ring B is a bridged bicyclic ring system containing
10 6-12 carbon atoms, wherein ring B is saturated or partially unsaturated; or

the ring system comprising ring B, together with the ring containing Z and the nitrogen atom, contains more than ten ring atoms;

15 wherein ring B has up to 3 substituents selected independently from J;

J is halogen, -OR', -NO₂, -CF₃, -OCF₃, -R', oxo, -OR', -O-benzyl, -O-phenyl, 1,2-methylenedioxy, 1,2-ethylenedioxy, -N(R')₂, -SR', -SOR', -SO₂R', -C(O)R', -
20 COOR' or -CON(R')₂, wherein R' is independently selected from:

hydrogen,

(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,

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(C1-C12)-aliphatic-
[(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],
(C6-C10)-aryl,
(C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12) aliphatic,
5 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,
(C6-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12) aliphatic,
(C5-C10)-heteroaryl, or
(C5-C10)-heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic;

R₁ and R₃ are independently:

10 (C1-C12)-aliphatic,
(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,
(C1-C12)-aliphatic-
[(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],
(C6-C10)-aryl,
15 (C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12) aliphatic,
(C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,
(C6-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12) aliphatic,
(C5-C10)-heteroaryl, or
(C5-C10)-heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
20 wherein each of R₁ and R₃ is independently and
optionally substituted with up to 3
substituents independently selected from J;
wherein up to 3 aliphatic carbon atoms in R₁ and
R₃ may be replaced by a heteroatom selected from
25 O, NH, S, SO, or SO₂ in a chemically stable
arrangement;

R₂ and R₄ are independently

hydrogen,
(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
30 (C3-C10)-cycloalkyl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic, or
(C6-C10) aryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

- 80 -

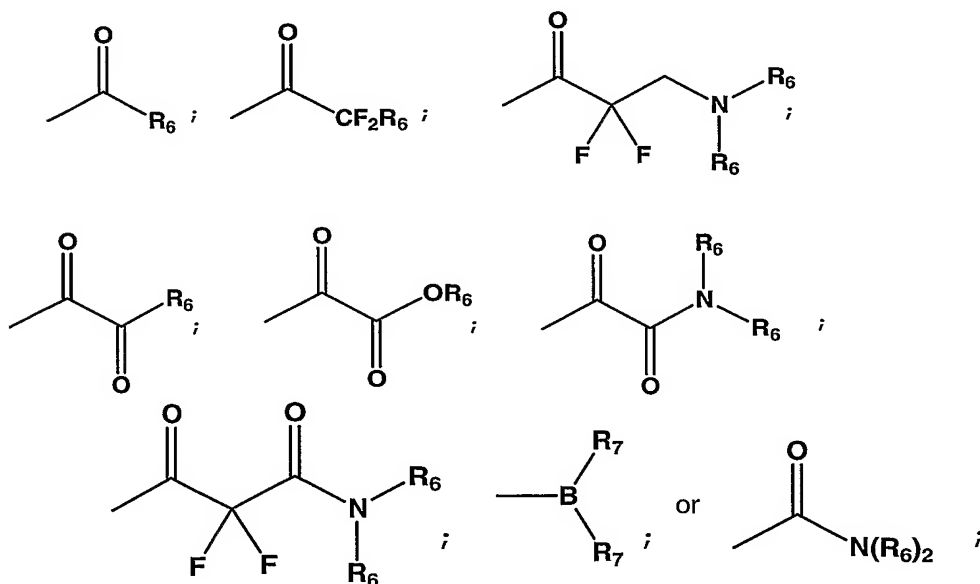
wherein each of R_2 and R_4 is independently and optionally substituted with up to 3 substituents independently selected from J; wherein up to two aliphatic carbon atoms in R_2 and R_4 may be replaced by a heteroatom selected from O, NH, S, SO, or SO_2 in a chemically stable arrangement;

Z is a carbon atom, -CHR-N-, -HN-CR- or -CHR-CHR-, -O-CHR-, -S-CHR-, -SO-CHR-, - SO_2 -CHR-, or -N-;

wherein R is aliphatic, aryl, aralkyl or cycloalkyl;

R_5 is -(C1-C12) aliphatic, wherein any hydrogen is optionally substituted with halogen, and wherein any hydrogen or halogen atom bound to any terminal carbon atom of R_5 is optionally substituted with sulfhydryl or hydroxy;

W is selected from: -C(O)OH;



wherein each R_6 is independently:

hydrogen,
(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

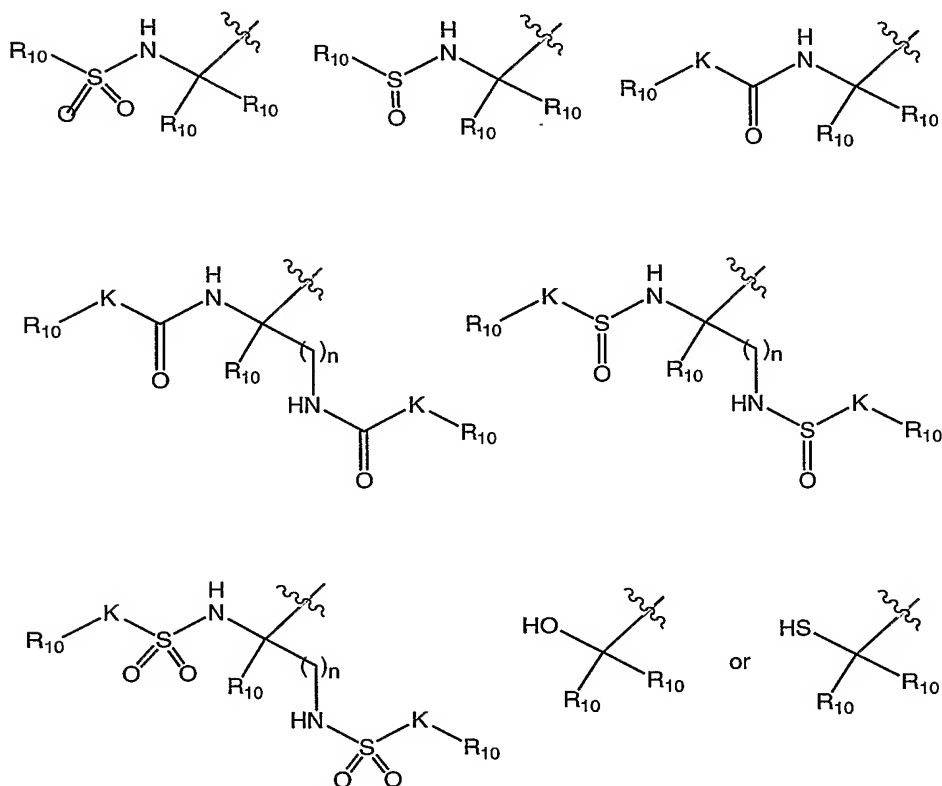
- 81 -

- (C1-C12)-aliphatic-
 [(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],
 (C6-C10)-aryl,
 (C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,
 5 (C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,
 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,
 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
 (C5-C10)heteroaryl, or
 (C5-C10)heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic, or
 10 two R₆ groups, which are bound to the same nitrogen
 atom, form together with that nitrogen atom, a (C3-C10)-
 heterocyclic ring;
 wherein R₆ is optionally substituted with up to 3 J
 substituents;
 15 each R₇ is hydroxy, alkoxy, or aryloxy; or
 each R₇ is an oxygen atom linked to an aliphatic
 group and, together with the boron to which they are each
 bound, the two R₇ groups form a 3-6 membered ring;
 V is a bond, -CH(R₈)-, -N(R₈)-, -O-, -O-CH(R₈),
 20 -CH(R₈)-O-, -S-, -S-CH(R₈)-, -CH(R₈)-S-, -C(O)-, -C(O)-O-,
 -O-C(O)-, -C(O)-S-, -C(O)-CHR₈-, -CHR₈-C(O)- -N(R₈)C(O)-
 -C(O)N(R₈)-, -S(O)-, -S(O)-CH(R₈), -CH(R₈)-S(O)-,
 -S(O)N(R₈)-, -N(R₈)S(O)-, -S(O)-N(R₈)-CHR₈, -N(R₈)-S(O)-
 CHR₈-, -CHR₈-S(O)₂, -S(O)₂-CH(R₈)-, -CH(R₈)-S(O)₂-,
 25 -S(O)₂N(R₈)-, -N(R₈)-S(O)₂-, -S(O)₂-N(R₈)-CHR₈ or -N(R₈)-
 S(O)₂-CHR₈;
 wherein R₈ is hydrogen or (C1-C12)-aliphatic;
 T is selected from:
 (C6-C10)-aryl,
 30 (C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,
 (C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,
 (C1-C12)-aliphatic-

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[(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],
 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,
 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
 (C5-C10)heteroaryl, or
 (C5-C10)heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic; or

T is selected from:



wherein:

- 10 R_{10} is:
- hydrogen,
 - (C1-C12)-aliphatic,
 - (C1-C12)-aliphatic-
 - [(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],
 - 15 (C6-C10)-aryl,
 - (C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,

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(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,
 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,
 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
 (C5-C10)-heteroaryl, or
 (C5-C10)-heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

5

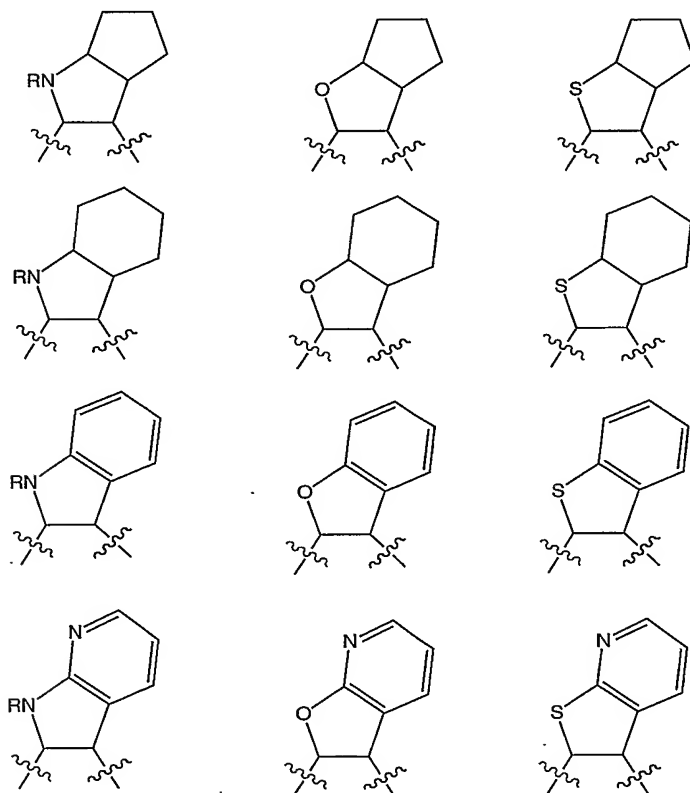
wherein each T is optionally substituted with up to
 3 J substituents;

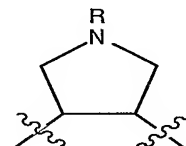
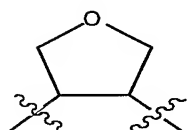
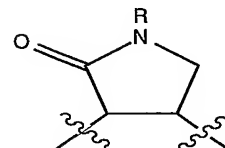
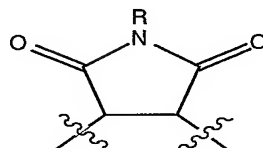
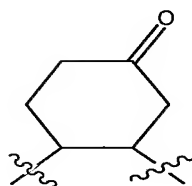
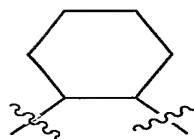
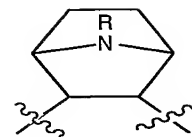
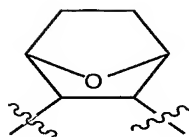
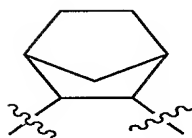
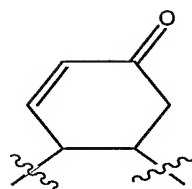
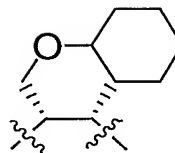
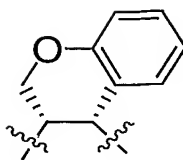
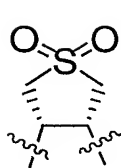
K is a bond, (C1-C12)-aliphatic, -O-, -S-, -NR₉-,
 -C(O)-, or -C(O)-NR₉-, wherein R₉ is hydrogen or (C1-C12)-
 10 aliphatic; and

n is 1-3.

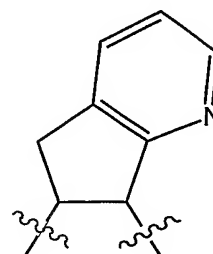
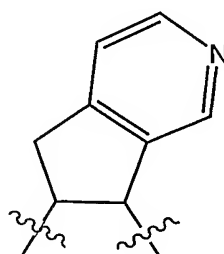
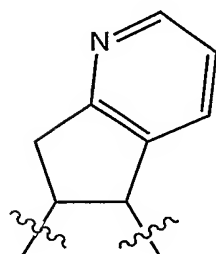
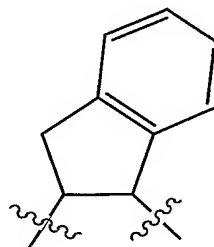
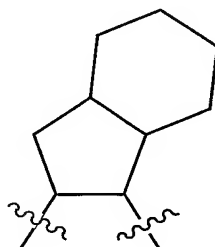
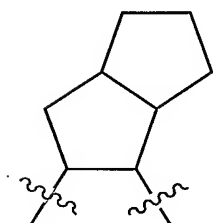
According to a preferred embodiment of
 compounds of formula (IV), ring B is a bridged bicyclic
 ring system containing 6-12 carbon atoms, wherein ring B
 15 is saturated or partially unsaturated, and ring B has up
 to 3 substituents selected independently from J.

Preferred embodiments of ring B in compound of
 formula (IV) include:



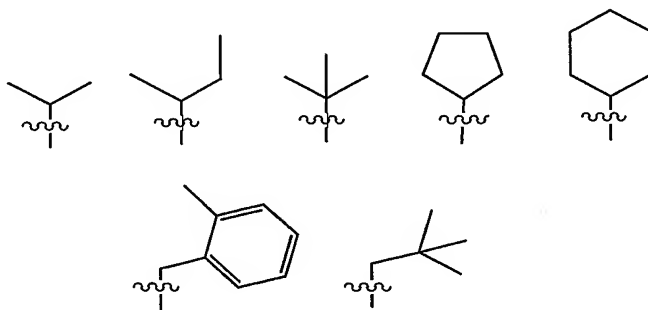


5



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According to a preferred embodiment, R_1 is selected from $-(C1-C10)alkyl$, $-(C3-C7)cycloalkyl$, or $-((C1-C6)alkyl)-((C3-C7)cycloalkyl)$. More preferably, R_1 is selected from:



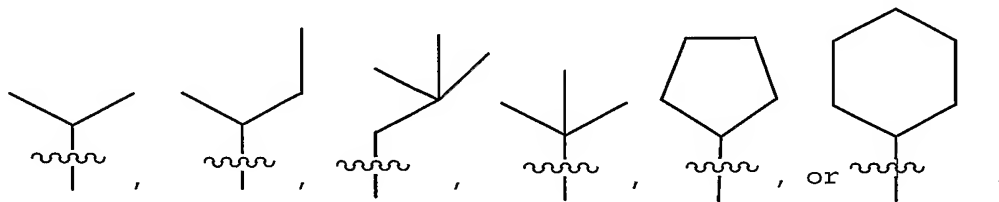
5

Even more preferably, R_1 is selected from $-CH_2-C(CH_3)_3$, $-C(CH_3)_3$, $-CH(CH_3)_2$, $-CH(CH_3)-CH_2-CH_3$, or cyclohexyl. Most preferably R_1 is cyclohexyl.

According to another preferred embodiment, R_2 is
 10 $(C1-C12)-aliphatic$. More preferably, R_2 is selected from hydrogen, methyl, ethyl or propyl. Even more preferably, R_2 is hydrogen or methyl. Most preferably, R_2 is hydrogen.

According to another preferred embodiment, R_3 is
 15 selected from $-(C1-C10)alkyl$, $-(C3-C7)cycloalkyl$, or $-((C1-C6)alkyl)-((C3-C7)cycloalkyl)$.

More preferably, R_3 is selected from:



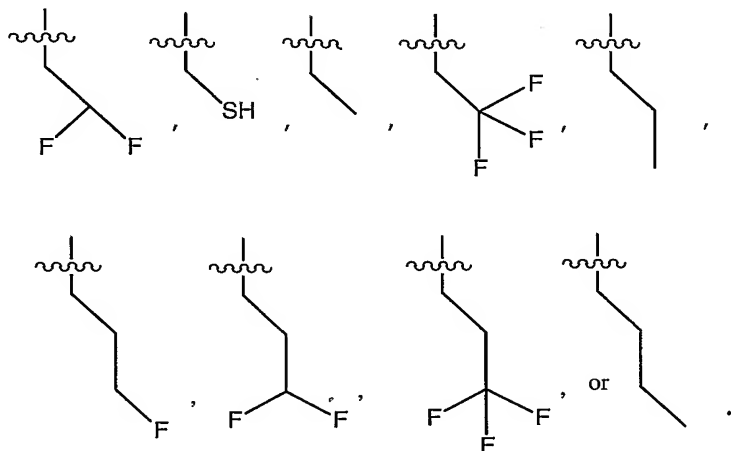
20

Even more preferably, R_3 is selected from $-C(CH_3)_2$, $-CH(CH_3)_2$, $-CH(CH_3)-CH_2-CH_3$, or cyclohexyl. Most preferably, R_3 is selected from $-C(CH_3)_3$ or $-CH(CH_3)_2$.

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According to another preferred embodiment, R_4 is (C1-C12)-aliphatic. More preferably, R_4 is selected from hydrogen, methyl, ethyl or propyl. Even more preferably, R_4 is selected from hydrogen.

- 5 According to another preferred embodiment, R_5 is -(C2-C7)alkyl optionally substituted with halogen. Preferably, R_5 is selected from:

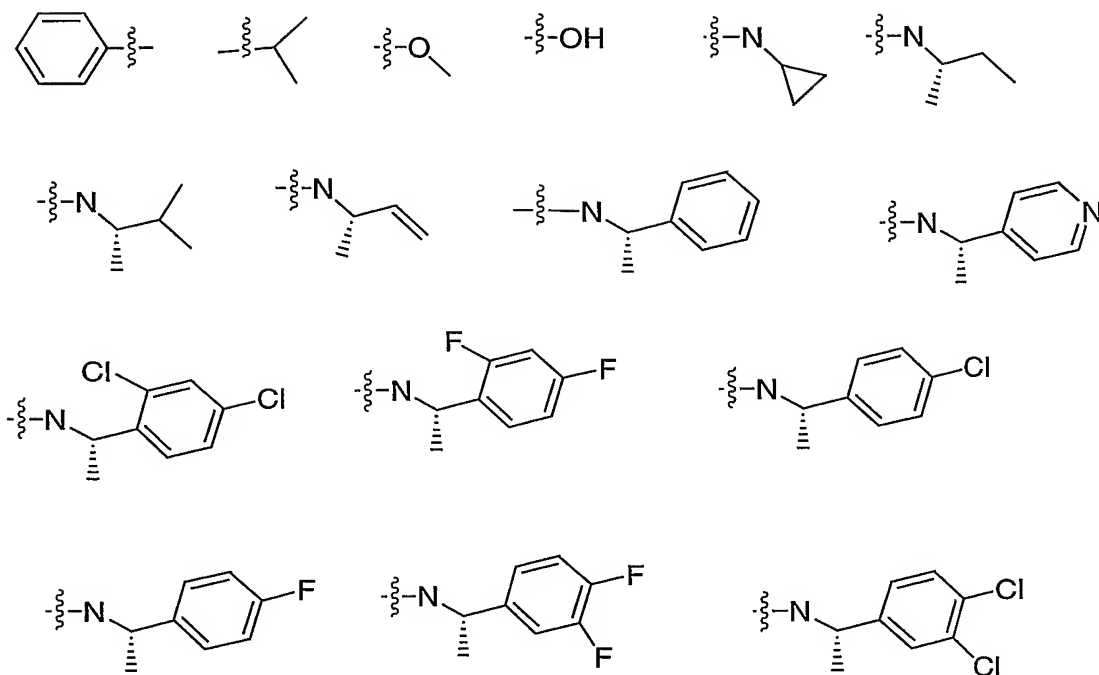


- 10 More preferably, R_5 is selected from $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{F}$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CHF}_2$, or $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CF}_3$. Even more preferably, R_5 is selected from $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ or $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CHF}_2$. Most preferably, R_5 is $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ or $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$.

- 15 According to another preferred embodiment W is selected from: CHO , $-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{R}_6$, $-\text{CO}_2\text{H}$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{R}_6$, or $-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{NH}(\text{R}_6)$, wherein R_6 is selected from hydrogen, aryl, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl, C3-C6 alkyl, C3-C6 cycloalkyl, hydroxy, $-\text{O}-\text{C1}-\text{C6}$ alkyl, wherein $-\text{NH}(\text{R}_6)$ is
- 20 selected from $-\text{NH}-(\text{C3}-\text{C6}$ cycloalkyl), $\text{NH}-\text{aralkyl}$, $-\text{NH}-\text{alkylheteroaryl}$, $-\text{NH}-\text{alkylheterocyclyl}$, and wherein said aryl, heterocyclyl or heteroaryl is optionally substituted with up to 3 halogen atoms.

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More preferably, R_6 or $-NH(R_6)$ is selected from:



According to another preferred embodiment W is
 5 selected from $-C(O)OH$ or $-C(O)-C(O)-R_6$. More preferably,
 W is $-C(O)-C(O)-R_6$. Preferably, R_6 is isopropyl.

According to a preferred embodiment, W is
 $-C(O)-C(O)-R_6$. Preferably, R_6 is isopropyl.

According to another preferred embodiment, W is
 10 $-C(O)-C(O)-OR_6$. Preferably, R_6 is hydrogen, (C1-C12)-
 aliphatic, (C6-C10)-aryl, (C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or
 -cycloalkenyl, (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl or (C5-
 C10)heteroaryl. More preferably, R_6 is H or methyl.

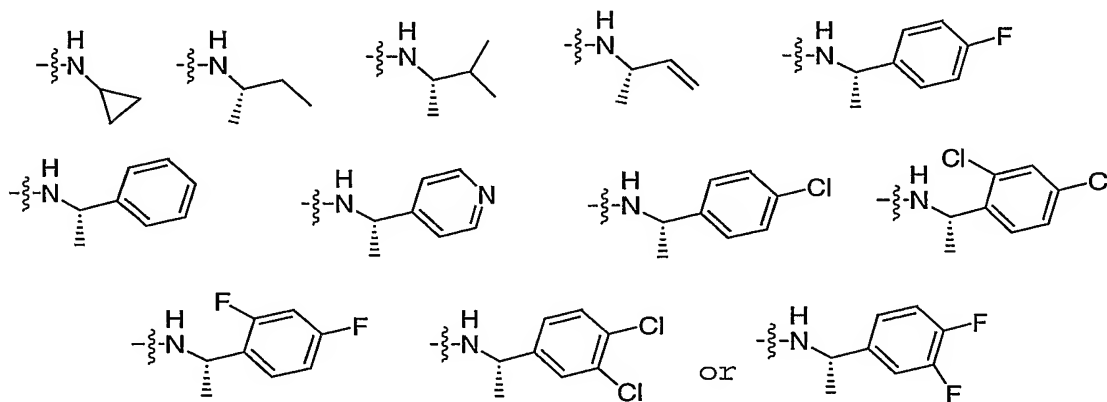
According to yet another preferred embodiment,
 15 W is $-C(O)-C(O)-N(R_6)_2$. Preferably, R_6 is hydrogen, (C3-
 C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl, or (C3-C10)-
 heterocyclyl.

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In another preferred embodiment of compounds of formula (IV) is where W is $C(O)-C(O)-N(R_6)_2$, the NR_6R_6 portion of the W moiety is $-NH-(C3-C6)$ cycloalkyl, $-NH-CH(CH_3)-(C6-C10)$ aryl or $-NH-CH(CH_3)-(C3-C10)$ heterocyclyl, or $-NH-CH(CH_3)-(C5-C10)$ heteroaryl, wherein said aryl, heterocyclyl, or heteroaryl is optionally substituted with halogen.

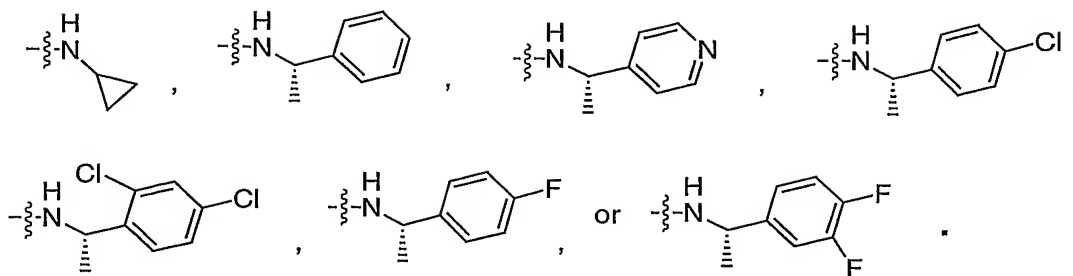
Alternatively, the NR_6R_6 portion is $-NH-(C3-C6)$ cycloalkyl, $-NH-CH(CH_3)-(C6-C10)$ aryl, or $-NH-CH(CH_3)-(C5-C10)$ heteroaryl, wherein said aryl or said heterocyclyl is optionally substituted with halogen; or NR_6R_6 is $-NH-(C3-C6)$ cycloalkyl, $-NH-CH(CH_3)-(C6-C10)$ aryl, or $-NH-CH(CH_3)-(C3-C10)$ heterocyclyl, wherein said aryl or said heterocyclyl is optionally substituted with halogen.

In other preferred embodiment of formula I, NR_6R_6 in W is:

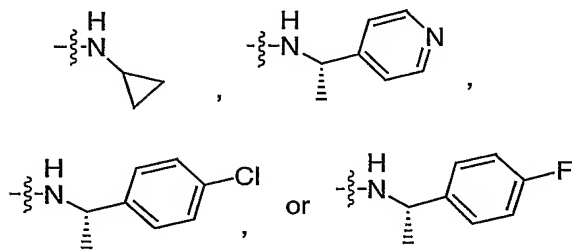


More preferably, NR_6R_6 is:

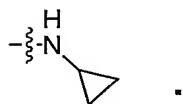
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Even more preferably, NR_6R_6 is:



Most preferably, NR_6R_6 is:



5

According to another preferred embodiment, when W is $-\text{B}(\text{R}_7)_2$, each R_7 is selected from hydroxy, alkoxy, or aryloxy.

10 According to yet another preferred embodiment, when W is $-\text{B}(\text{R}_7)_2$, each R_7 is selected from an oxygen atom linked to an aliphatic group and, together with the boron to which they are each bound, the two R_7 groups form a 5-8 membered ring.

15 According to another preferred embodiment, V is a bond, $-\text{CH}(\text{R}_8)-$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}_8)-$, $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{O}-\text{CH}(\text{R}_8)-$, $-\text{S}-$, $-\text{S}-\text{CH}(\text{R}_8)-$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})-$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{O}-$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{S}-$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{CHR}_8-$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{N}(\text{R}_8)-$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})-$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})-\text{CH}(\text{R}_8)-$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})\text{N}(\text{R}_8)-$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})-\text{N}(\text{R}_8)-\text{CHR}_8-$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2-\text{CH}(\text{R}_8)-$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2\text{N}(\text{R}_8)-$, or $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2-\text{N}(\text{R}_8)-\text{CHR}_8-$;
 20 wherein R_8 is hydrogen or $-(\text{C}1-\text{C}3)\text{alkyl}$;

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According to another preferred embodiment, V is -NH-.

According to yet another preferred embodiment, V is -C(O)-.

5 According to yet another preferred embodiment, V is -C(O)-NR₈-. More preferably, V is -C(O)-NH-.

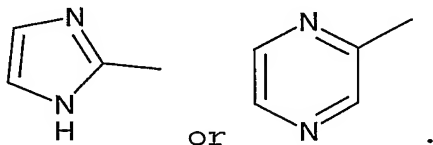
According to yet another preferred embodiment T is a heterocyclyl or heteroaryl, optionally having up to 3 substituents as defined above.

10 According to yet another preferred embodiment, T is a -(C₅-C₁₀)heteroaryl.

According to yet another preferred embodiment, T is selected from 3-1H-benzimidazol-2-one, 3-(1-alkyl)-benzimidazol-2-one, 2-tetrahydrofuranyl, 3-
15 tetrahydrofuranyl, pyrazolinyl, 1,3-dihydro-imidazol-2-one, 2-imidazolyl, 4-imidazolyl, 5-imidazolyl, 2-oxazolyl, 4-oxazolyl, 5-oxazolyl, 2-pyrrolyl, 3-pyrrolyl, 2-pyrimidinyl, 4-pyrimidinyl, 5-pyrimidinyl, 5-tetrazolyl, pyrazolyl, pyrazinyl or 1,3,5-triazinyl.

20 Even more preferably, T is selected from 3-1H-benzimidazol-2-one, 3-(1-alkyl)-benzimidazol-2-one, pyrazolinyl, 1,3-dihydro-imidazol-2-one, 2-imidazolyl, 2-pyrrolyl, 2-pyrimidinyl, 5-pyrimidinyl, 5-tetrazolyl or pyrazinyl.

25 Most preferred is when T or R⁷ is selected from:

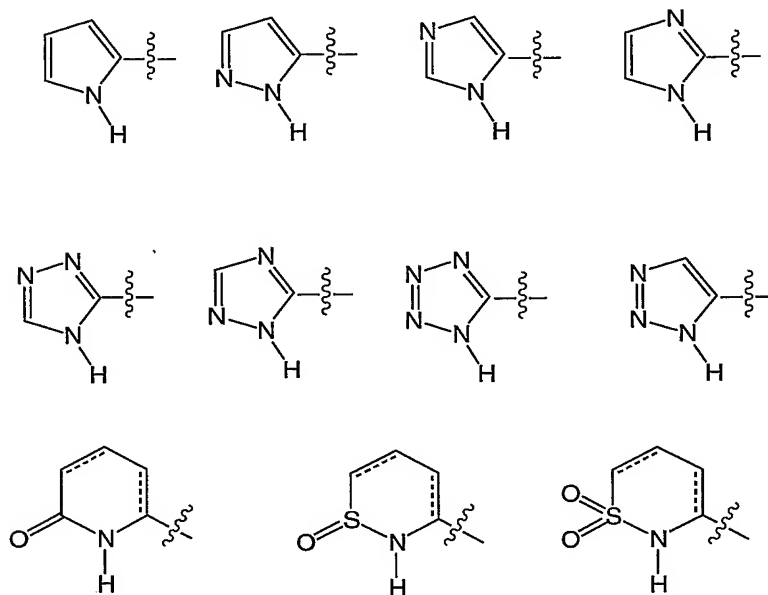


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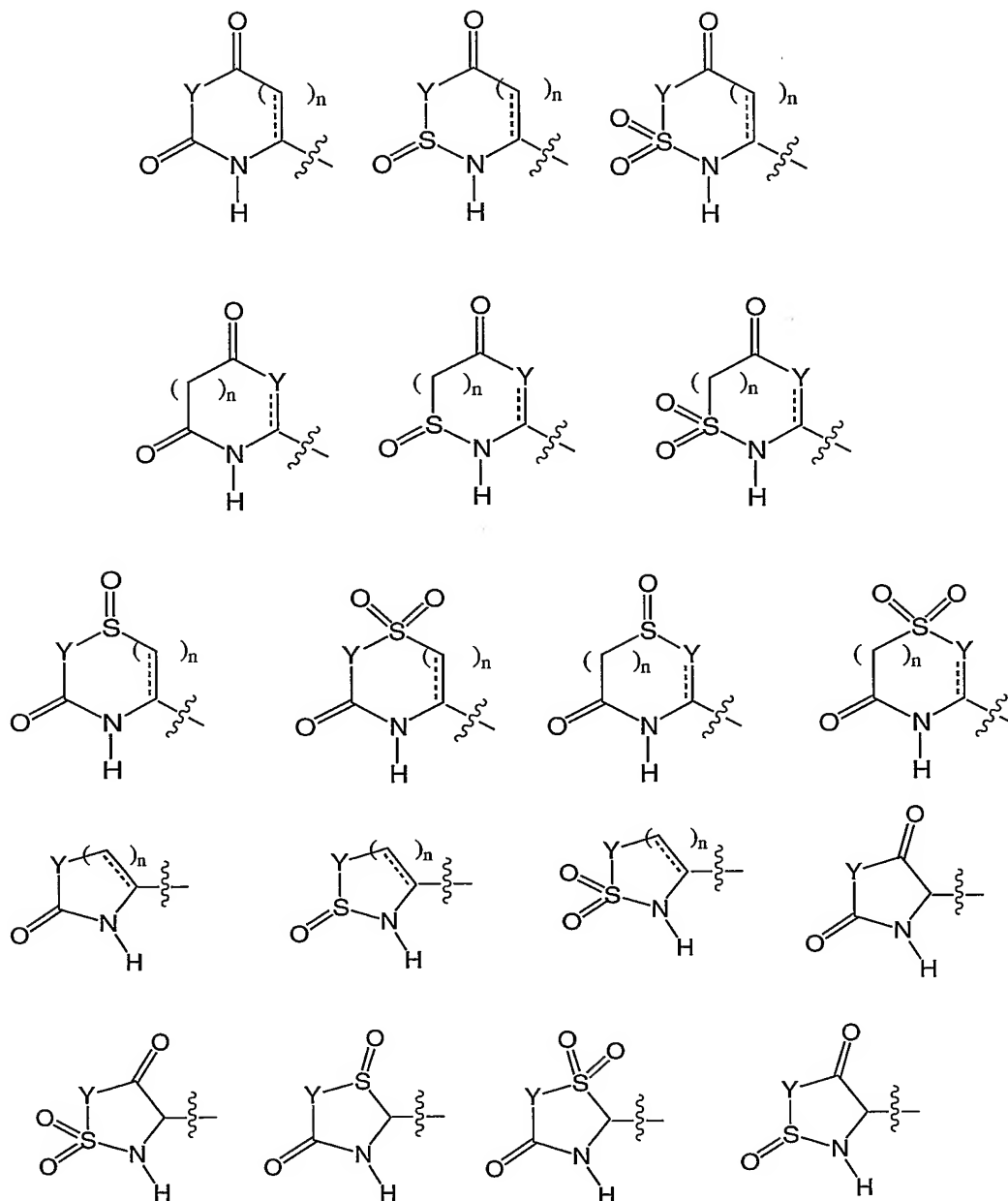
Preferred substituents on T in the above embodiments are halogen, $-\text{CF}_3$, $-\text{OCF}_3$, oxo, $-\text{COOR}'$, or $-\text{CON}(\text{R}')_2$, wherein R' is as defined above.

According to another preferred embodiment of this invention, T contains at least one hydrogen bond donor moiety selected from $-\text{NH}_2$, $-\text{NH}-$, $-\text{OH}$, and $-\text{SH}$.

In a preferred embodiment, T is:



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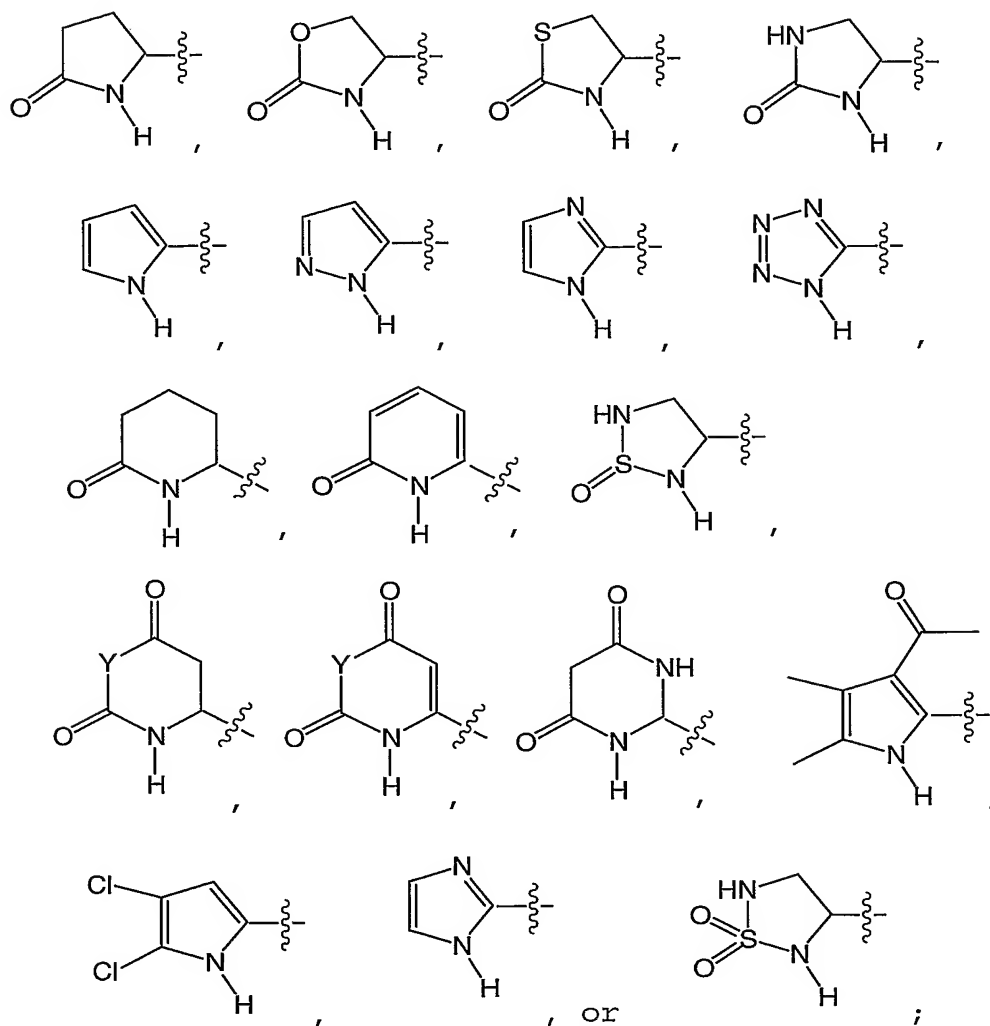


wherein:

- 5 T is optionally substituted with up to 3 J substituents, wherein J is as defined in claim 1;
- Y is independently O, S, NR_{10} , or $\text{C}(\text{R}_{10})_2$;
- n is independently 1 or 2; and
- is independently a single bond or a double bond.

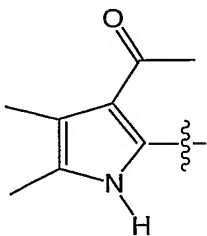
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In another preferred embodiment, T is:



wherein Y is as defined above.

More preferably T is



5

According to yet another preferred embodiment,
T is:

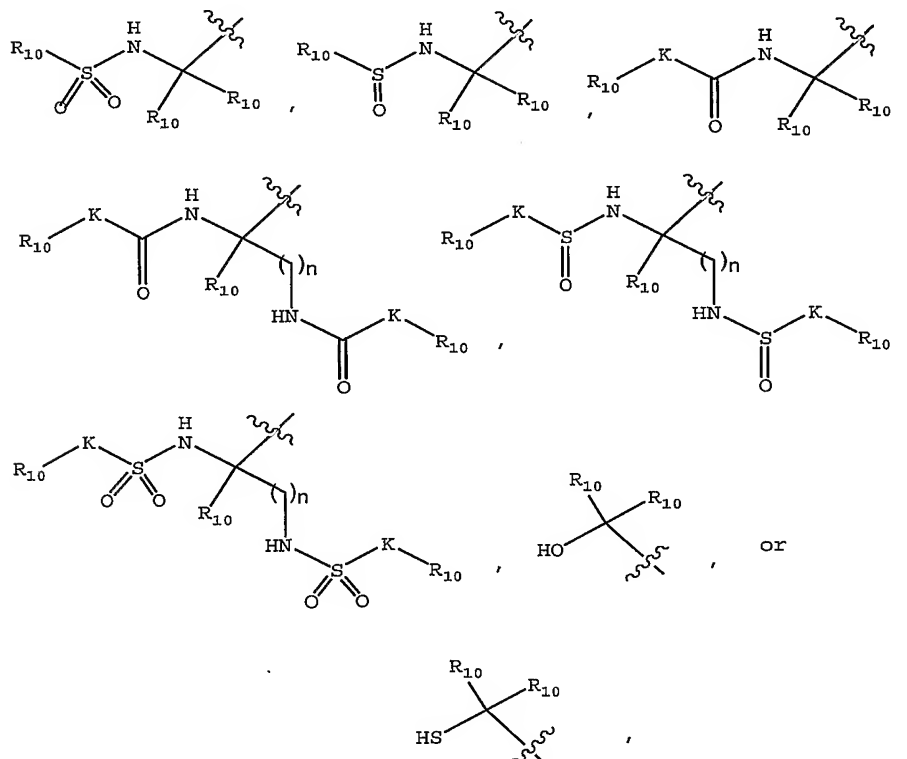
(C6-C10)-aryl,
(C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,
(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,
[(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl]-(C1-C12)-

5 aliphatic,

(C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,
(C3-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
(C5-C10)heteroaryl, or
(C5-C10)heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

10 wherein each T is optionally substituted with up to
3 J substituents.

According to yet another preferred embodiment of this invention, T:



15

wherein:

R_{10} is:

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hydrogen,

(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

(C6-C10)-aryl,

(C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,

5 (C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,

[(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl]-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

(C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,

(C3-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

10 (C5-C10)heteroaryl, or

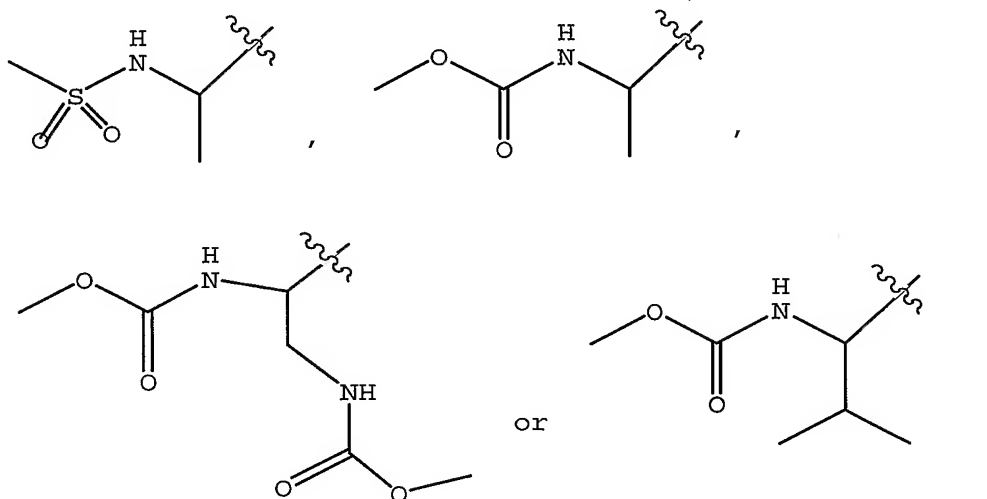
(C5-C10)heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

wherein each T is optionally substituted with up to
3 J substituents;

15 K is a bond, -O-, -S-, -NR₉-, -C(O)-, or -C(O)-NR₉-,
wherein R₉ is hydrogen or C1-C12 aliphatic; and

n is 1-3.

More preferably, T is:



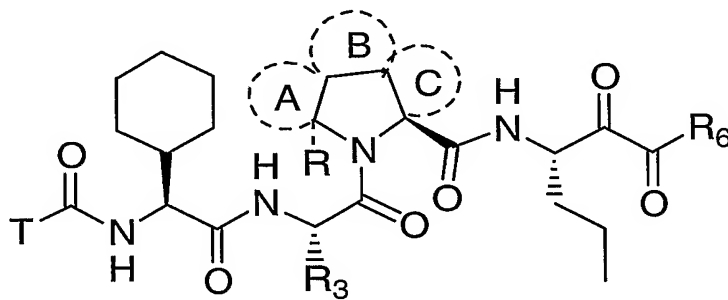
20

The compounds of this invention may contain one
or more asymmetric carbon atoms and thus may occur as

- 96 -

racemates and racemic mixtures, single enantiomers, diastereomeric mixtures and individual diastereomers. All such isomeric forms of these compounds are expressly included in the present invention. Each stereogenic carbon may be of the R or S configuration.

More preferably, the compounds of this invention have the structure and stereochemistry depicted below in generalized formula (V):



10

wherein T, R, R₃ and R₆ represent the embodiments set forth above and rings A, B, and C, if present, represent the embodiments set forth for compounds of formulas (I), (II), (III), and (IV).

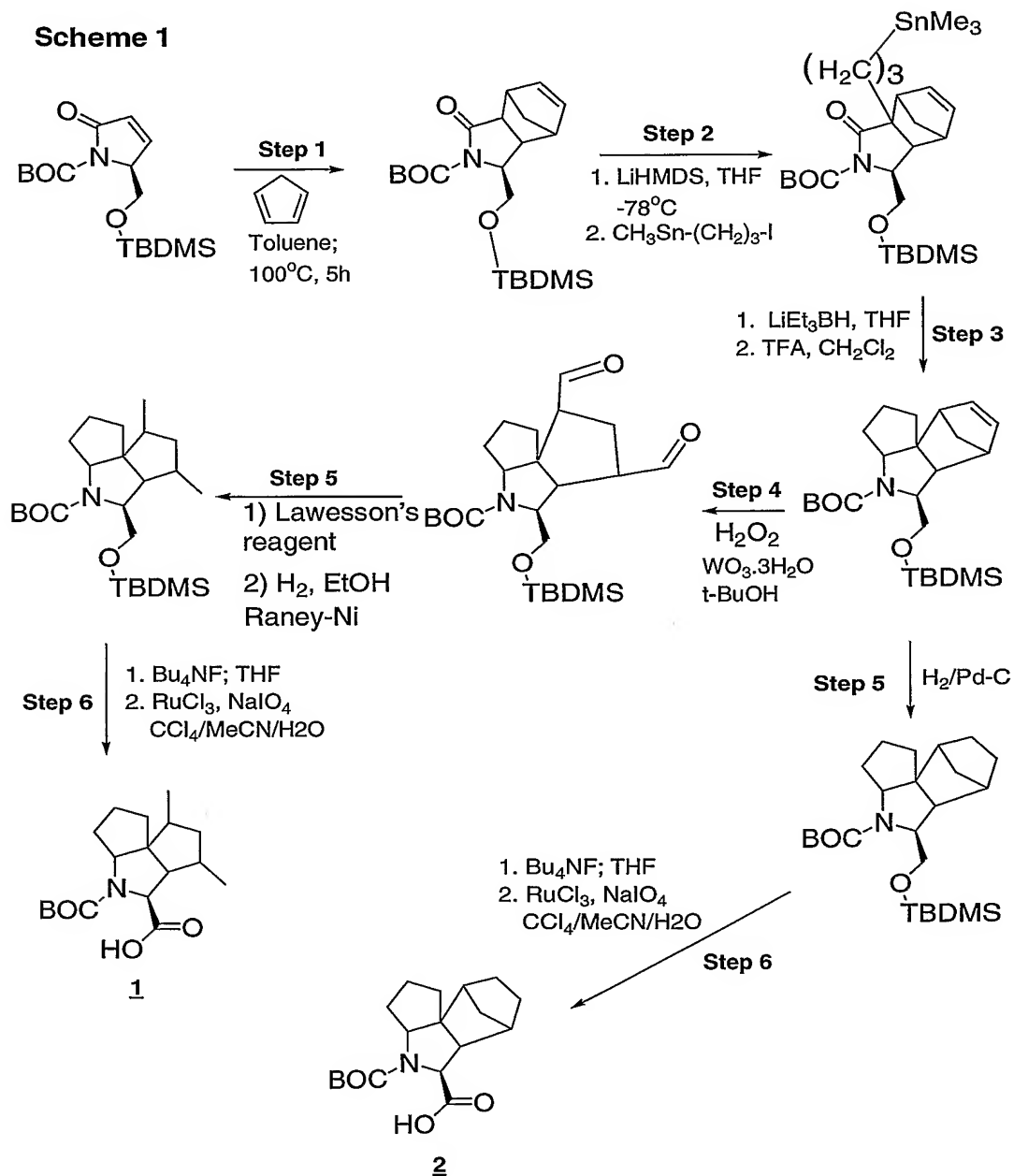
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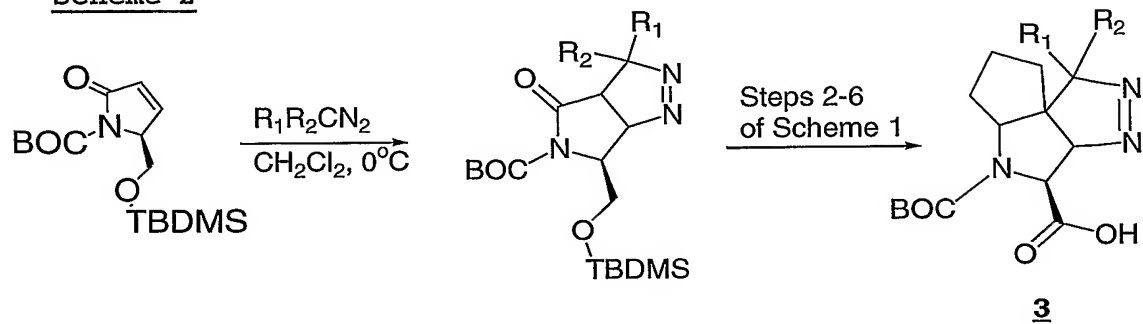
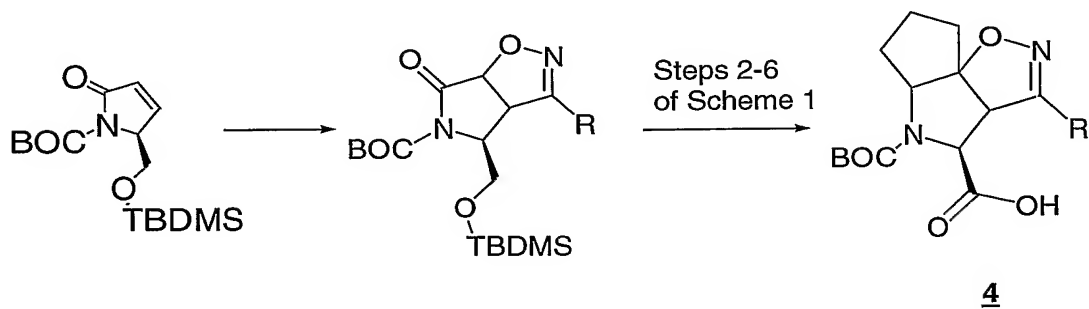
Any of the preferred embodiments recited above may be combined to produce a preferred embodiment of this invention.

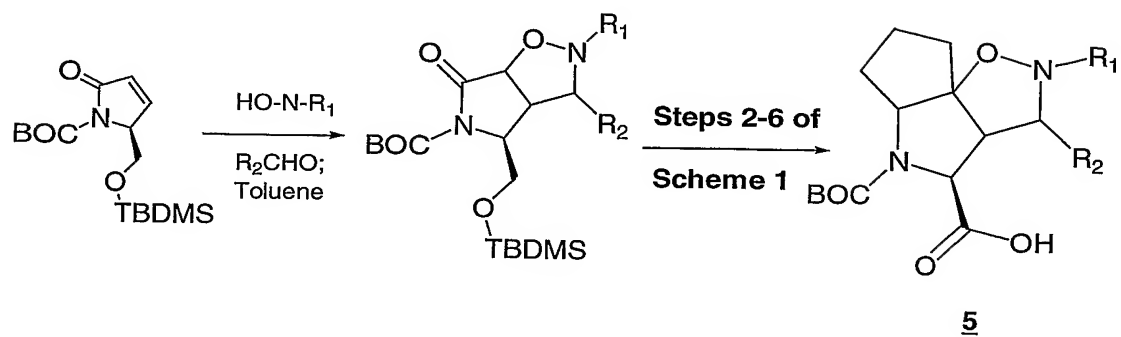
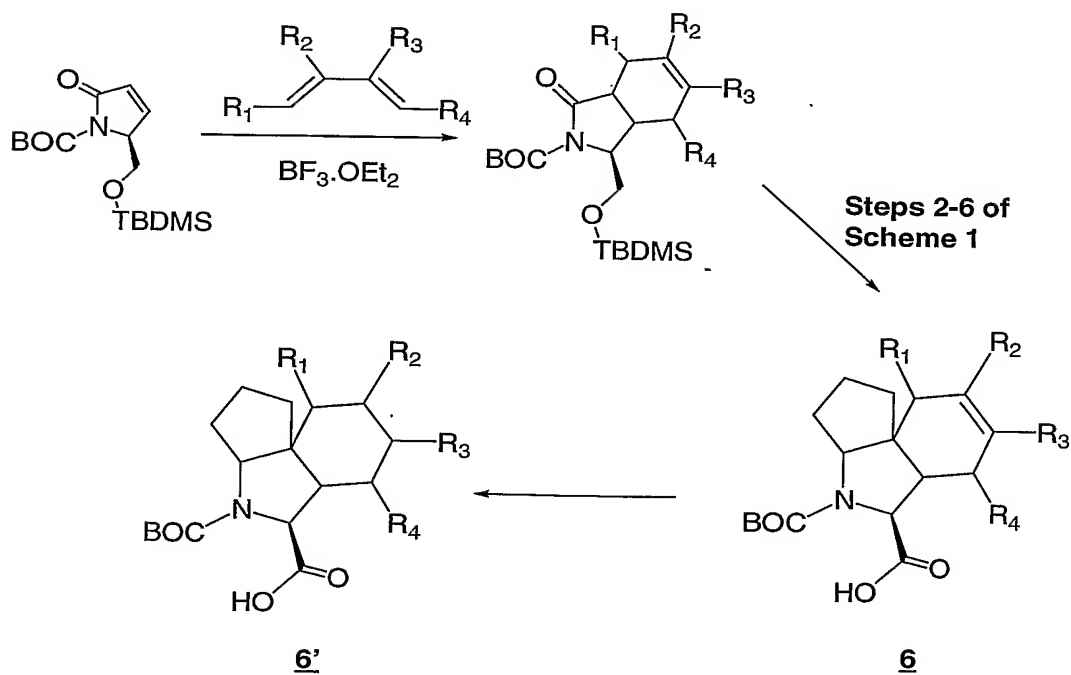
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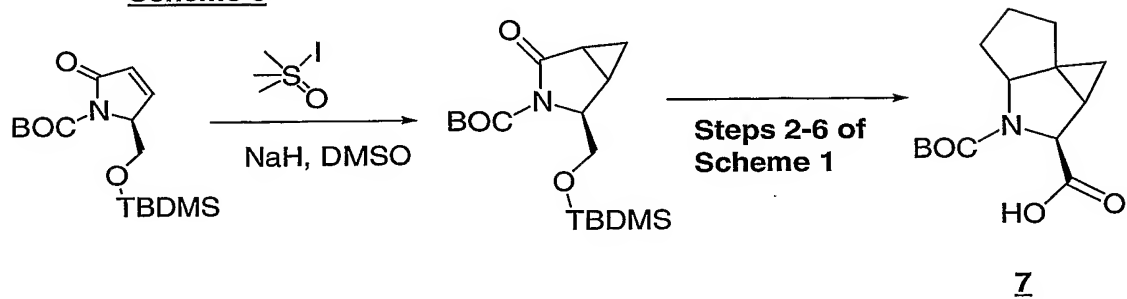
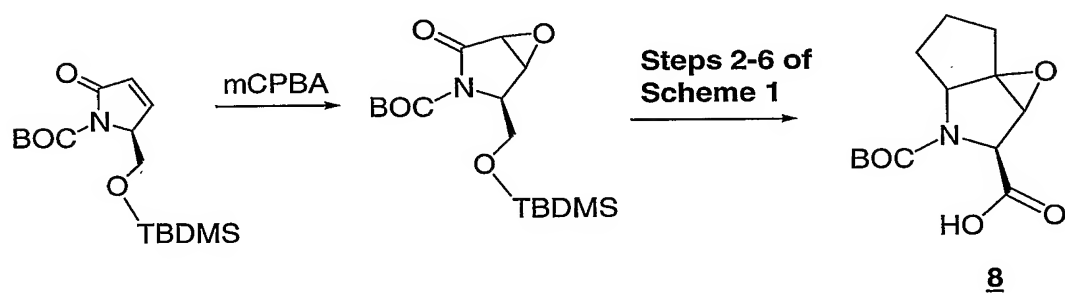
The compounds of this invention may be synthesized by standard chemical schemes well-known in the art. Schemes 1-22 below illustrate synthetic routes to the compounds of the present invention. Other equivalent schemes, which will be readily apparent to the ordinary skilled organic chemist, may alternatively be used to synthesize various portions of the molecule. A more specific synthetic scheme for compound 1A within applicants' invention is set forth in the examples.

25

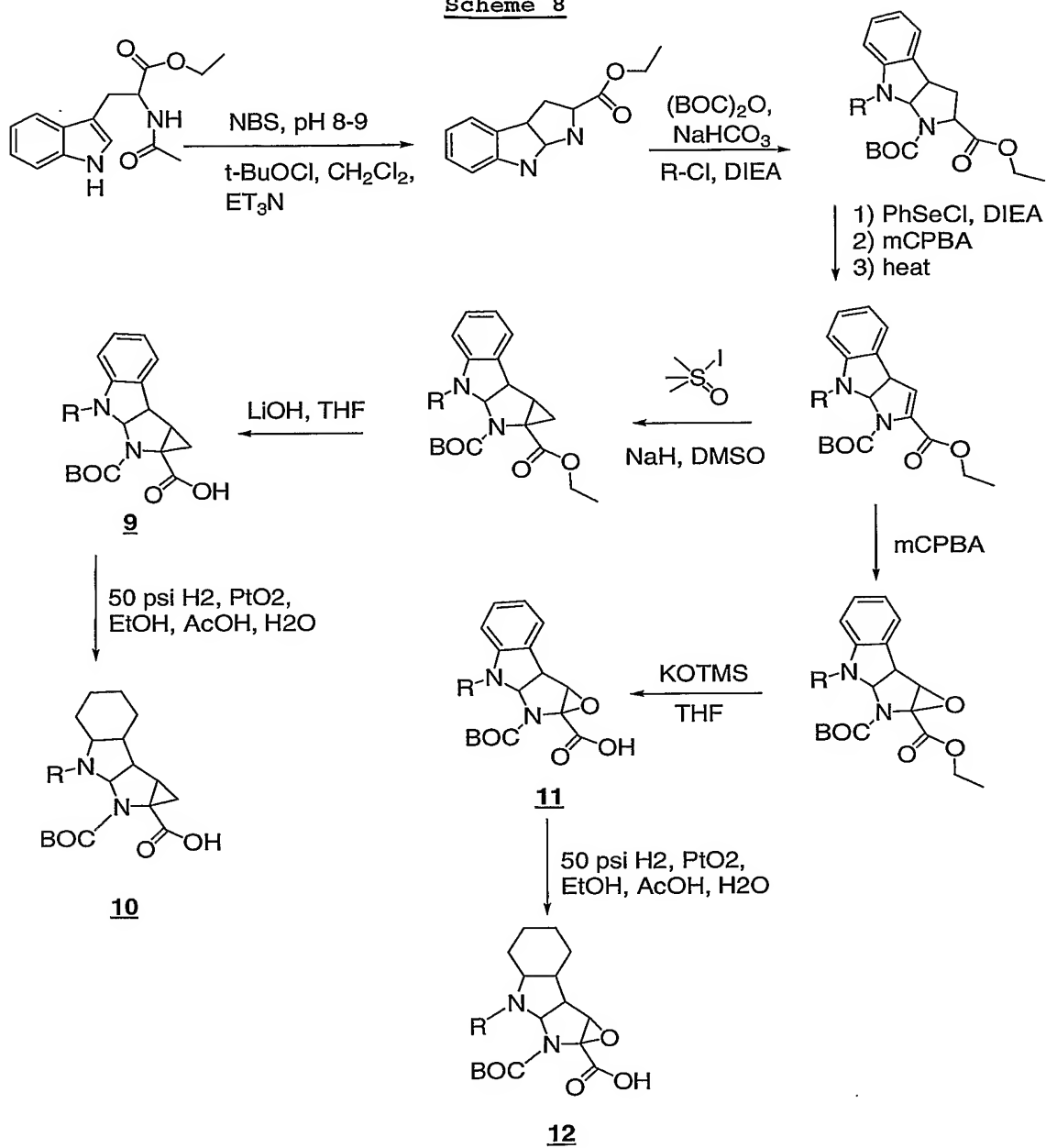
Preparation of compounds of Formula (I):

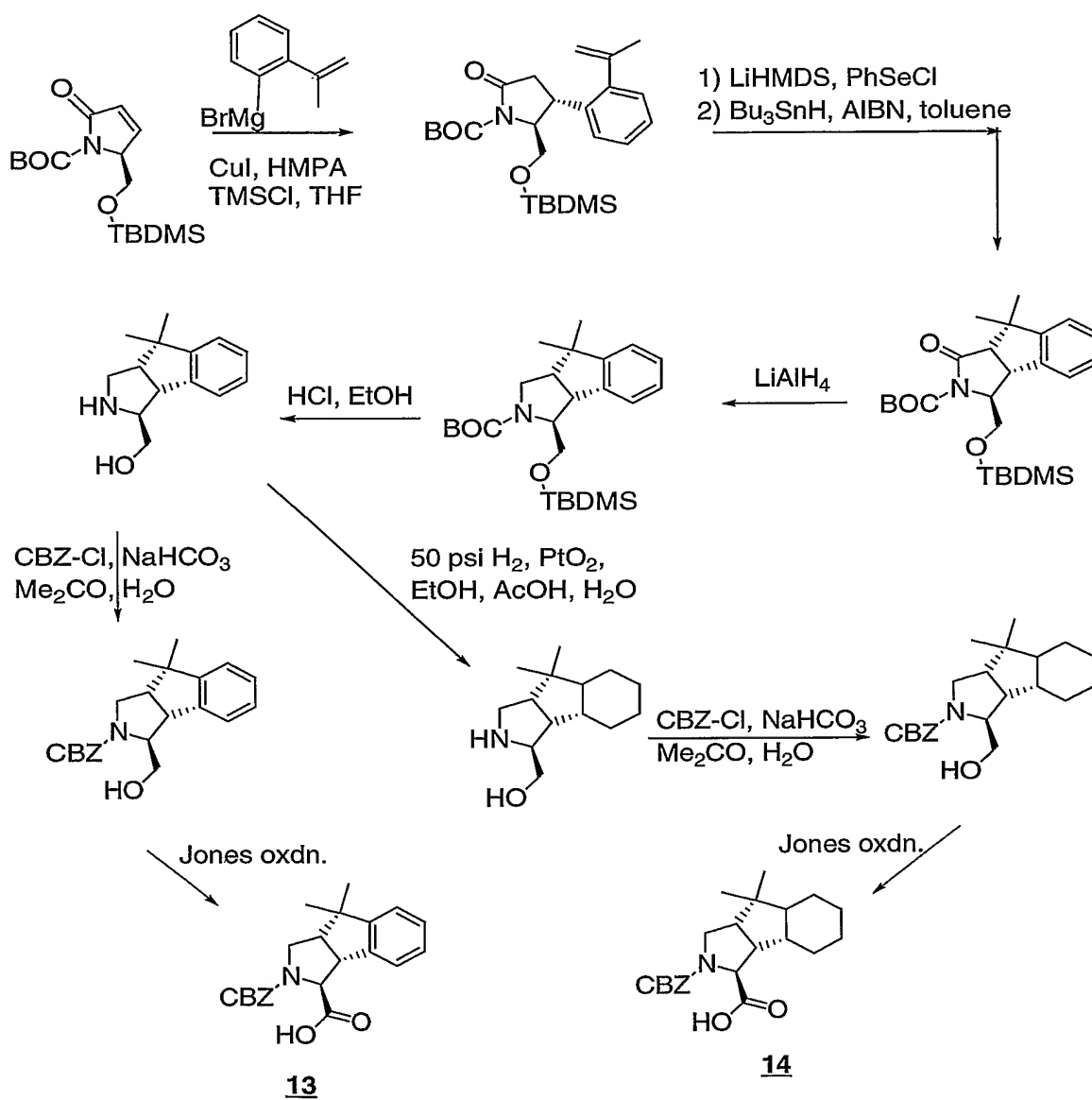
Preparation of Compounds of Formula (I):Scheme 2Scheme 3

Preparation of Compounds of Formula (I):Scheme 4Scheme 5

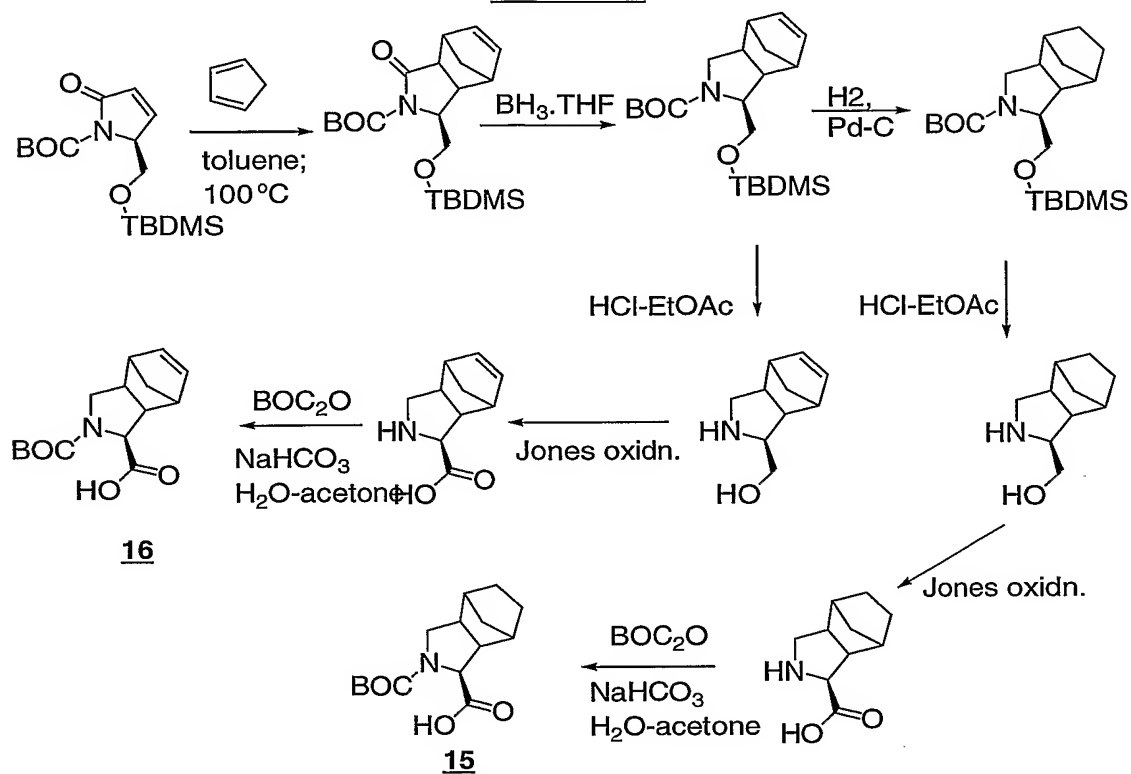
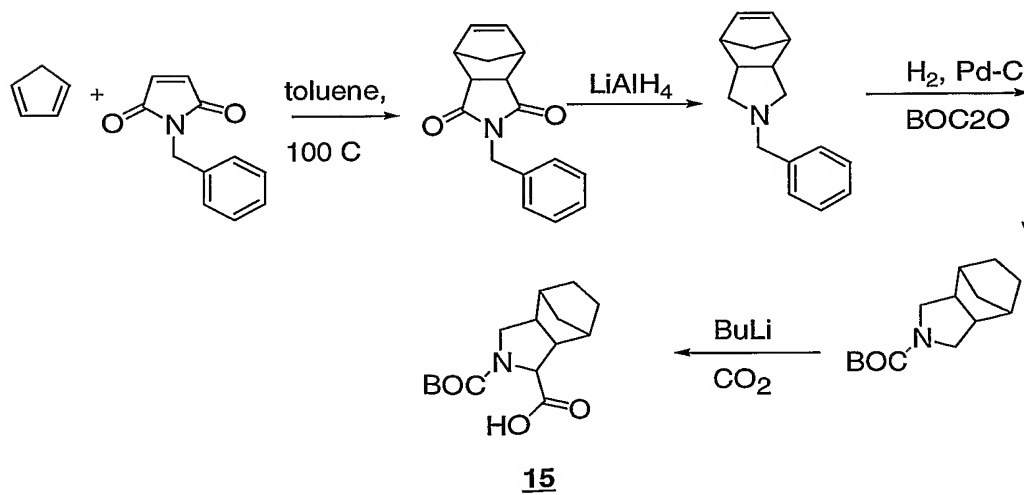
Preparation of Compounds of Formula (I):Scheme 6Scheme 7

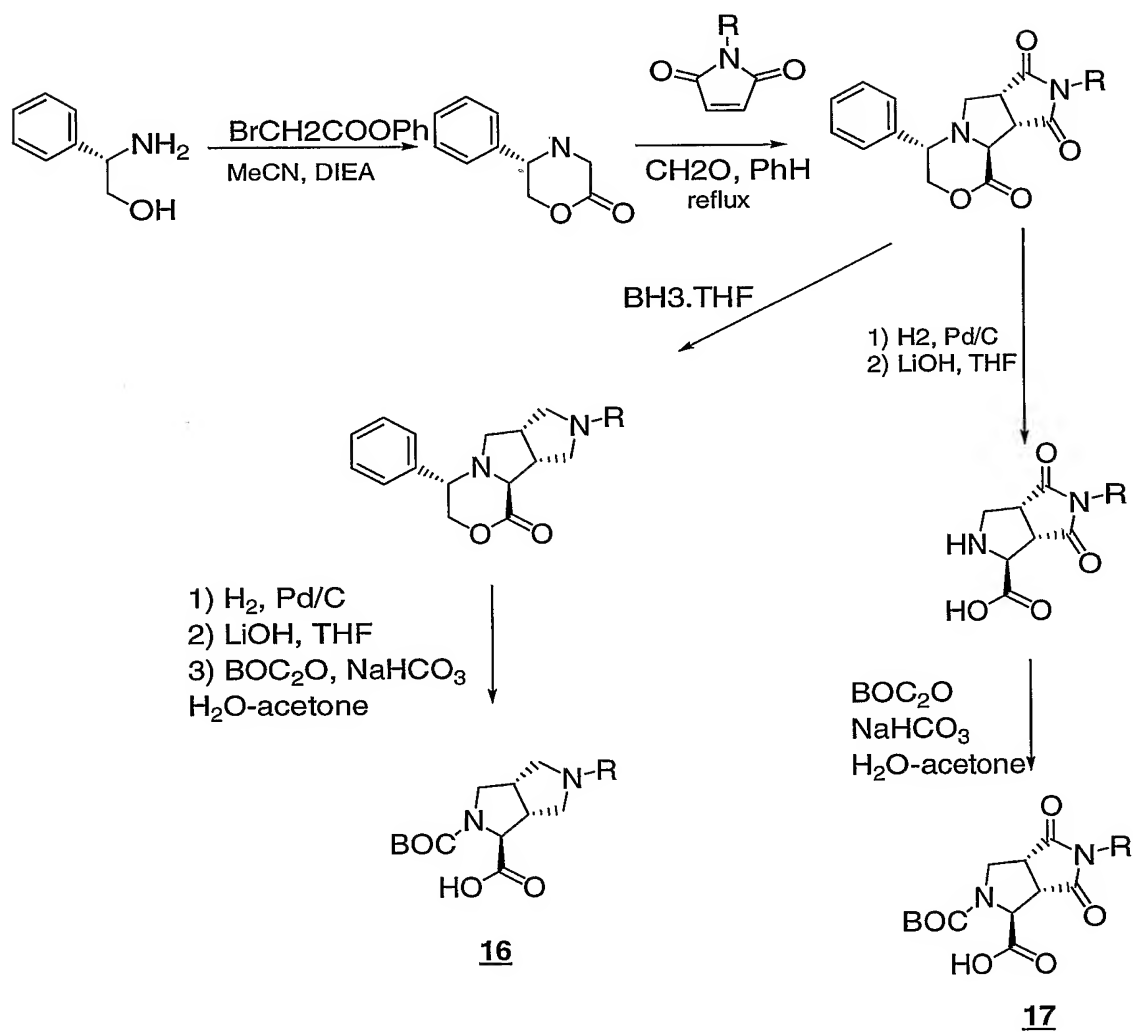
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Preparation of Compounds of Formula (II):Scheme 8

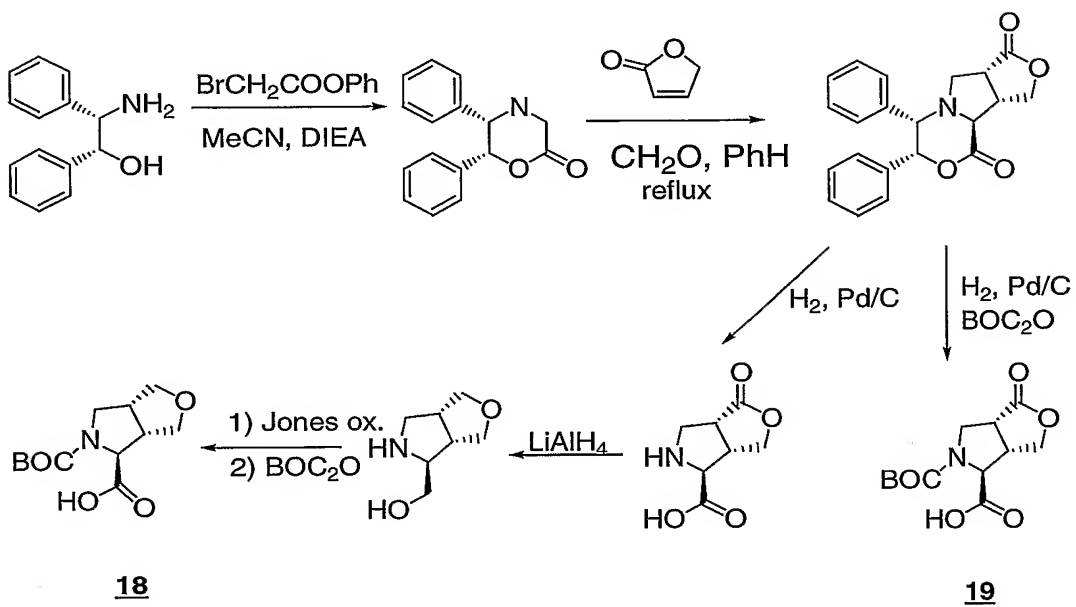
Preparation of Compounds of Formula (IV):Scheme 9

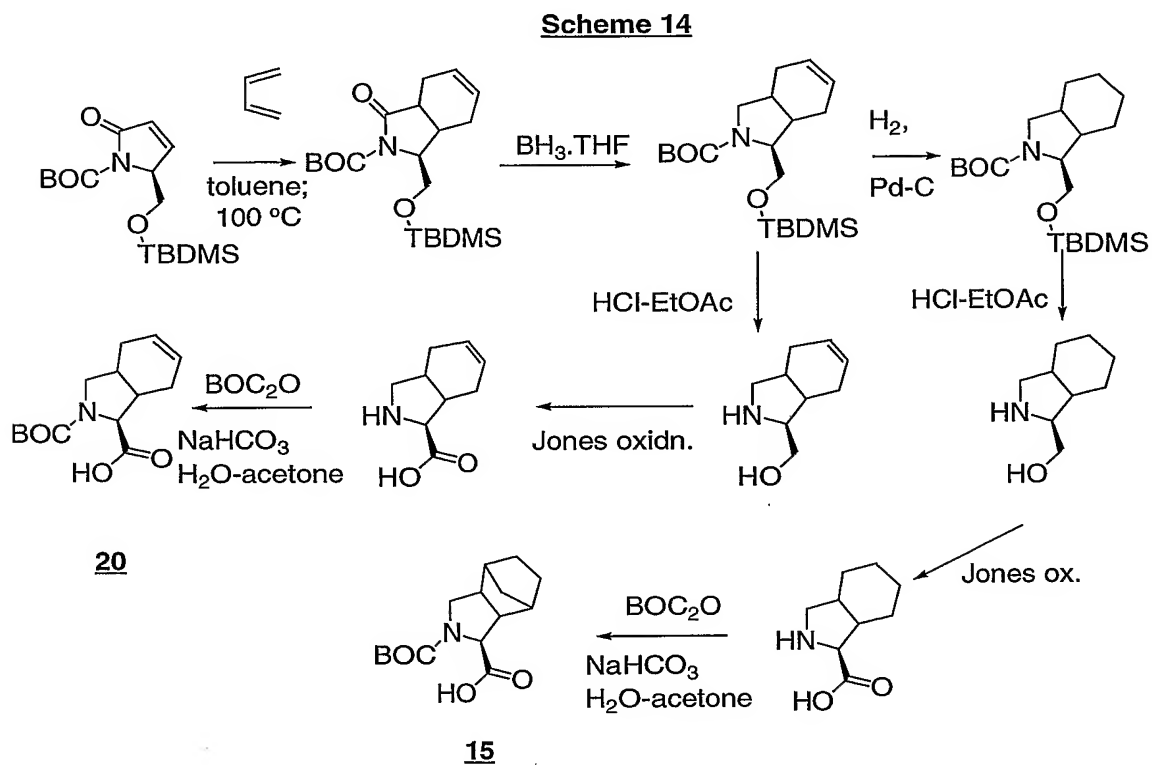
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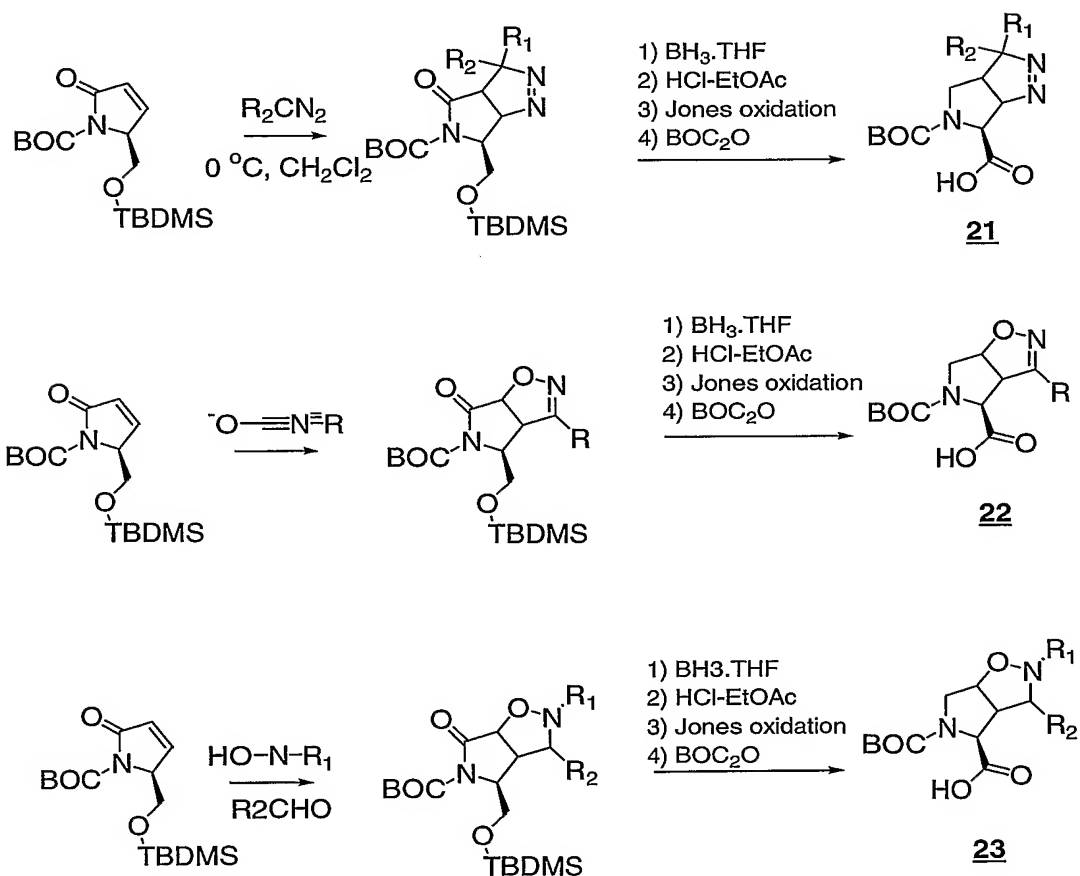
Preparation of Compounds of Formula (IV):Scheme 10Scheme 11

Preparation of compounds of Formula (IV):Scheme 12

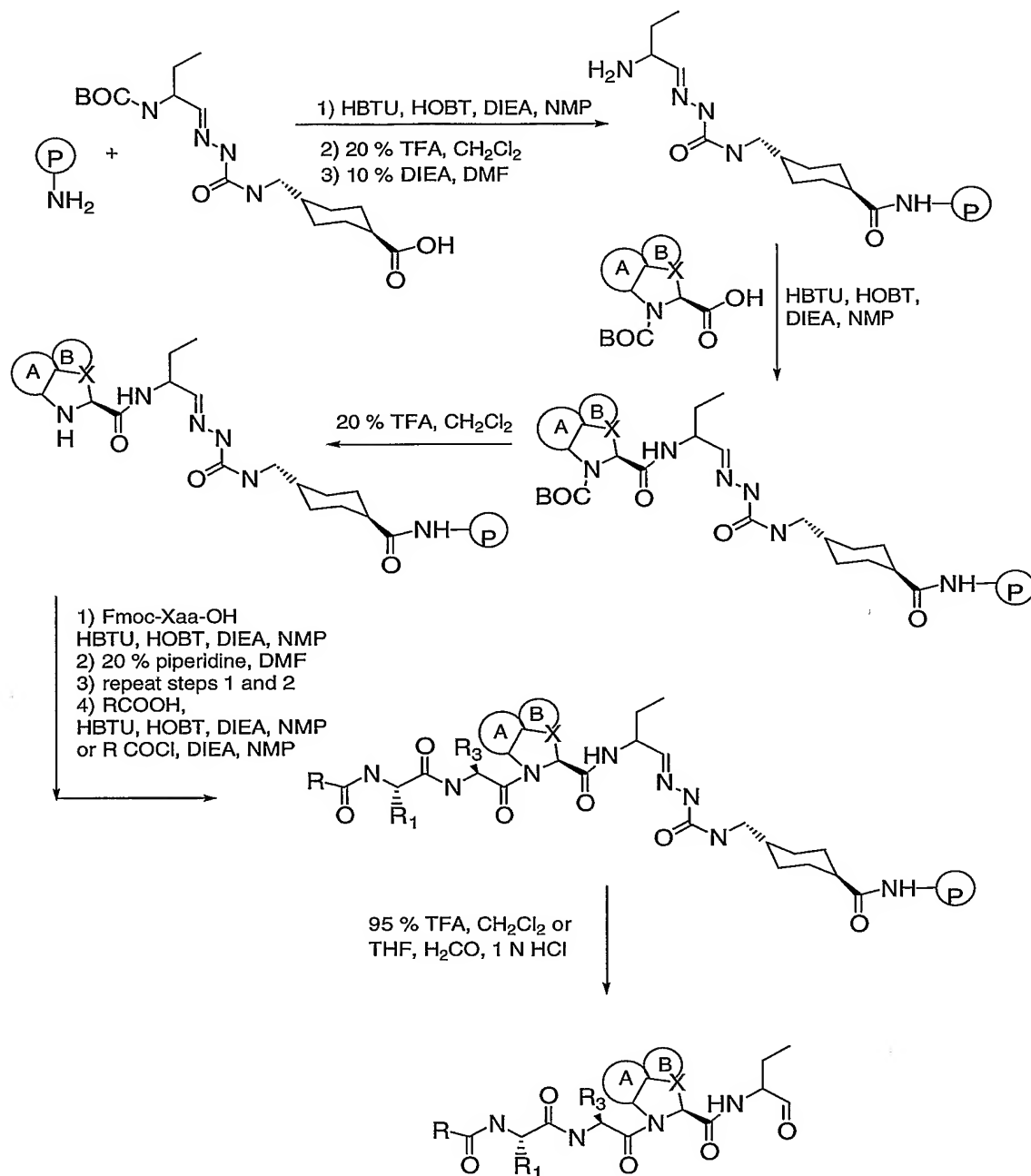
- 105 -

Preparation of compounds of Formula (IV) :Scheme 13

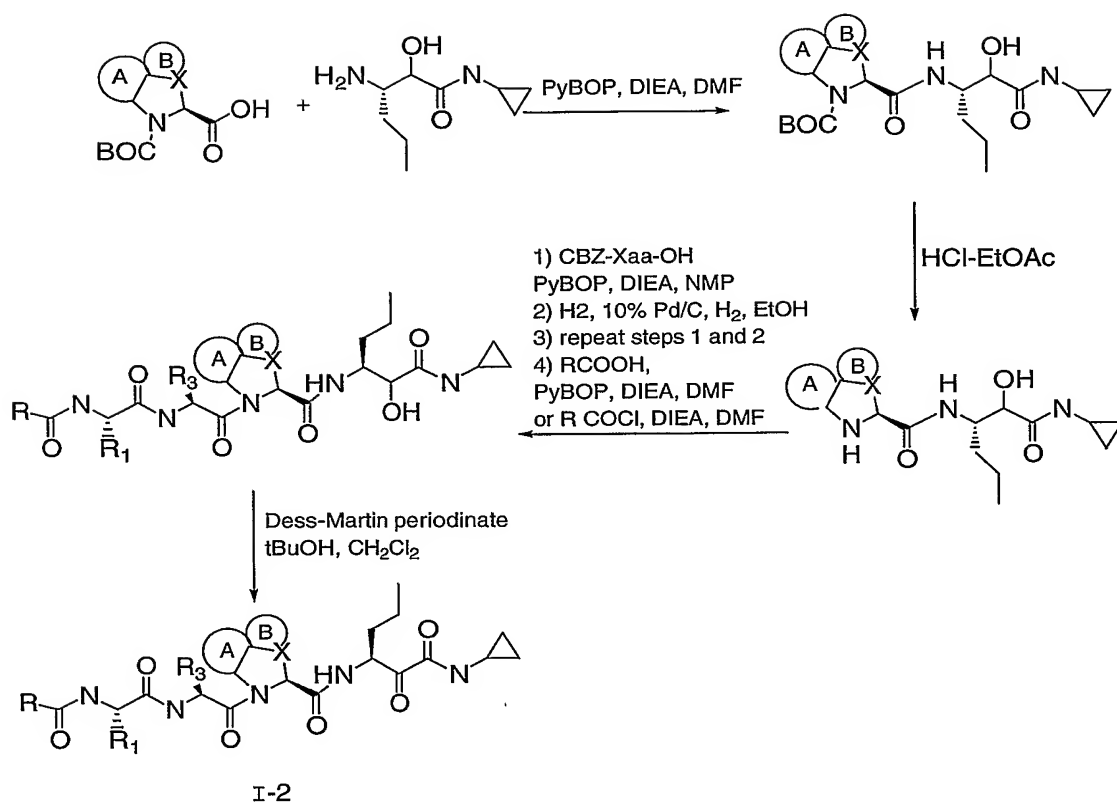
Preparation of compounds of Formula (IV):

Preparation of compounds of Formula (IV):Scheme 15

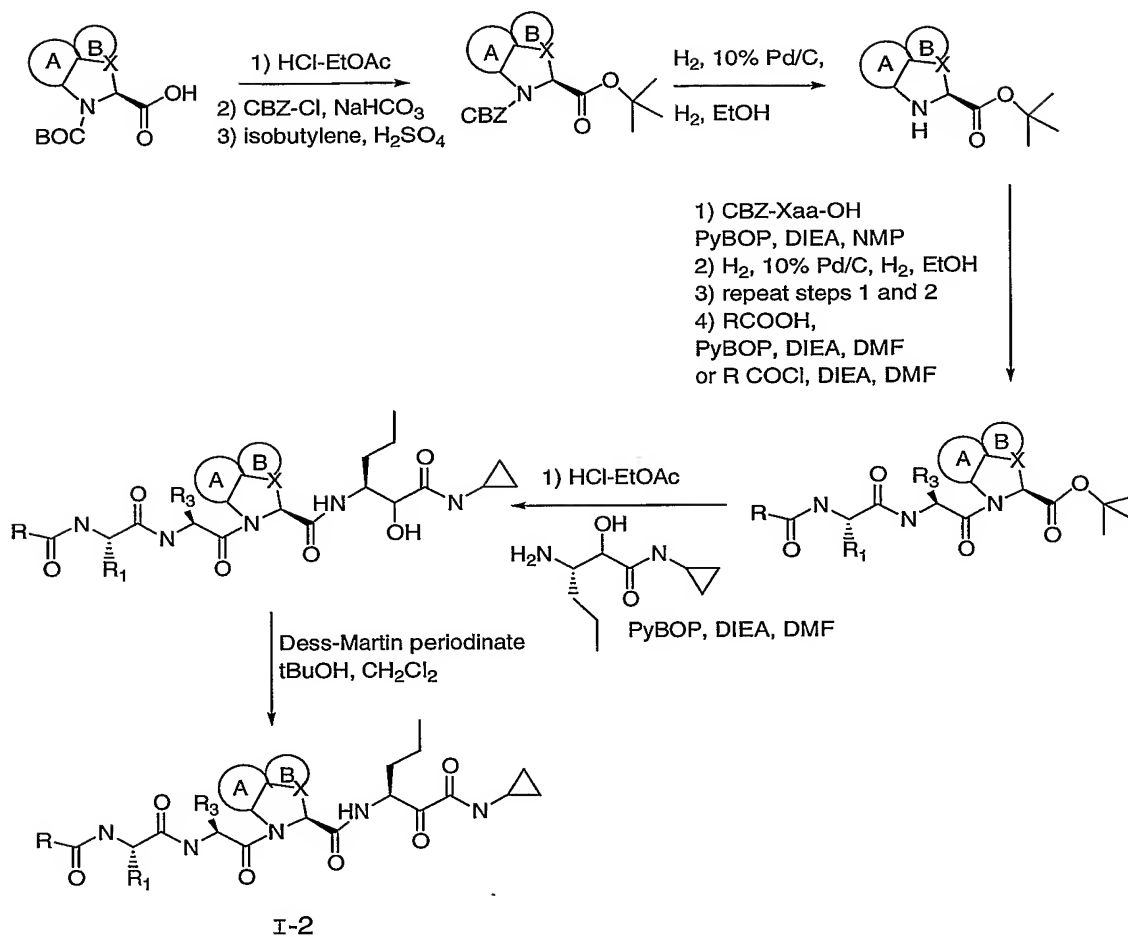
- 108 -

Scheme 16

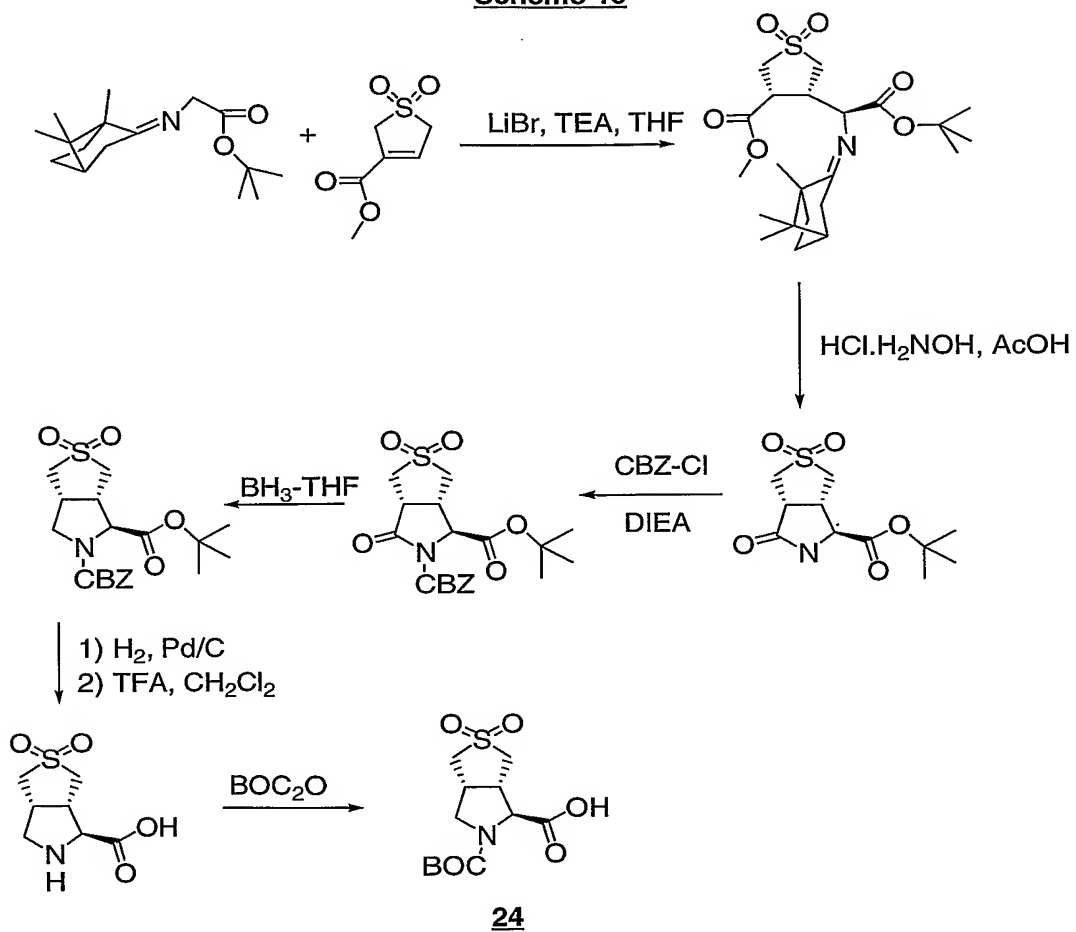
- 109 -

Scheme 17

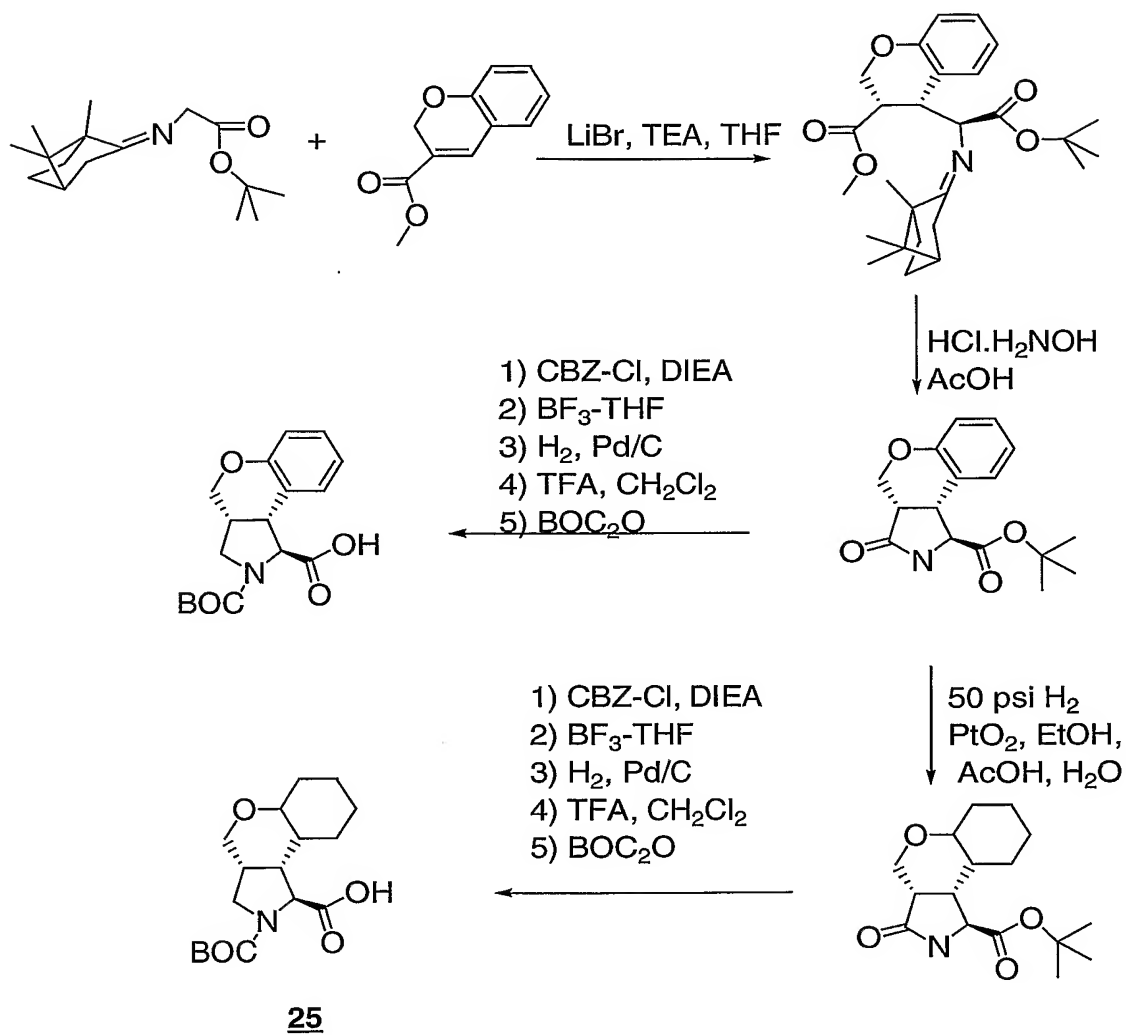
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Scheme 18

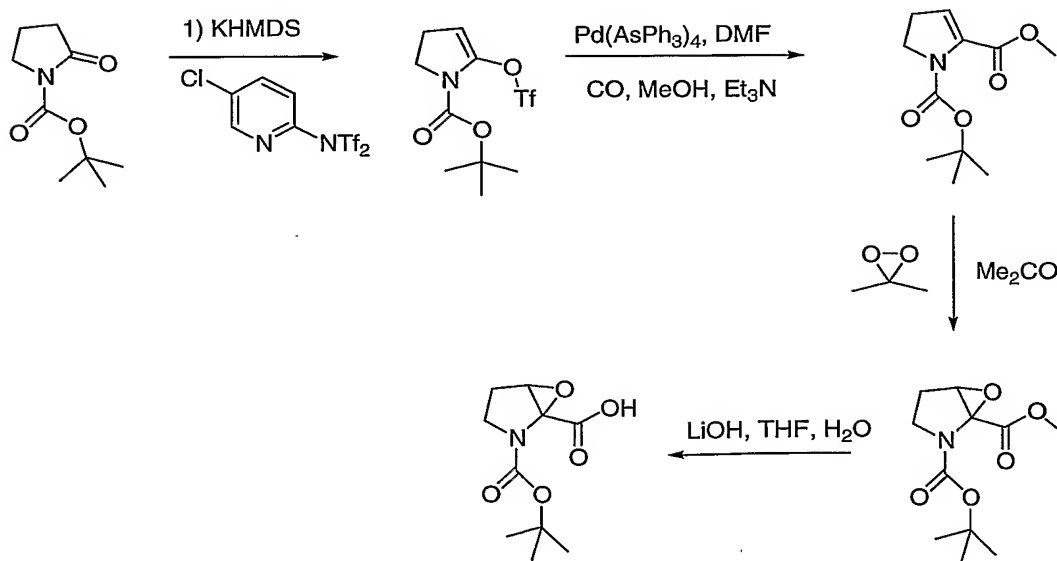
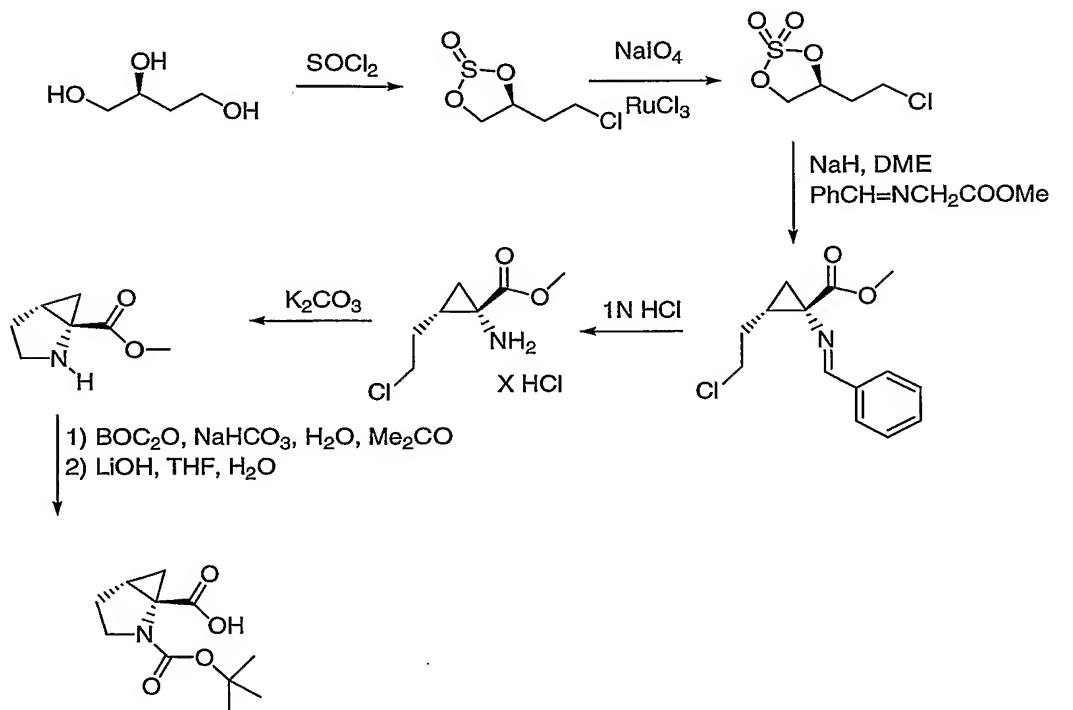
- 111 -

Preparation of compounds of Formula (IV):**Scheme 19**

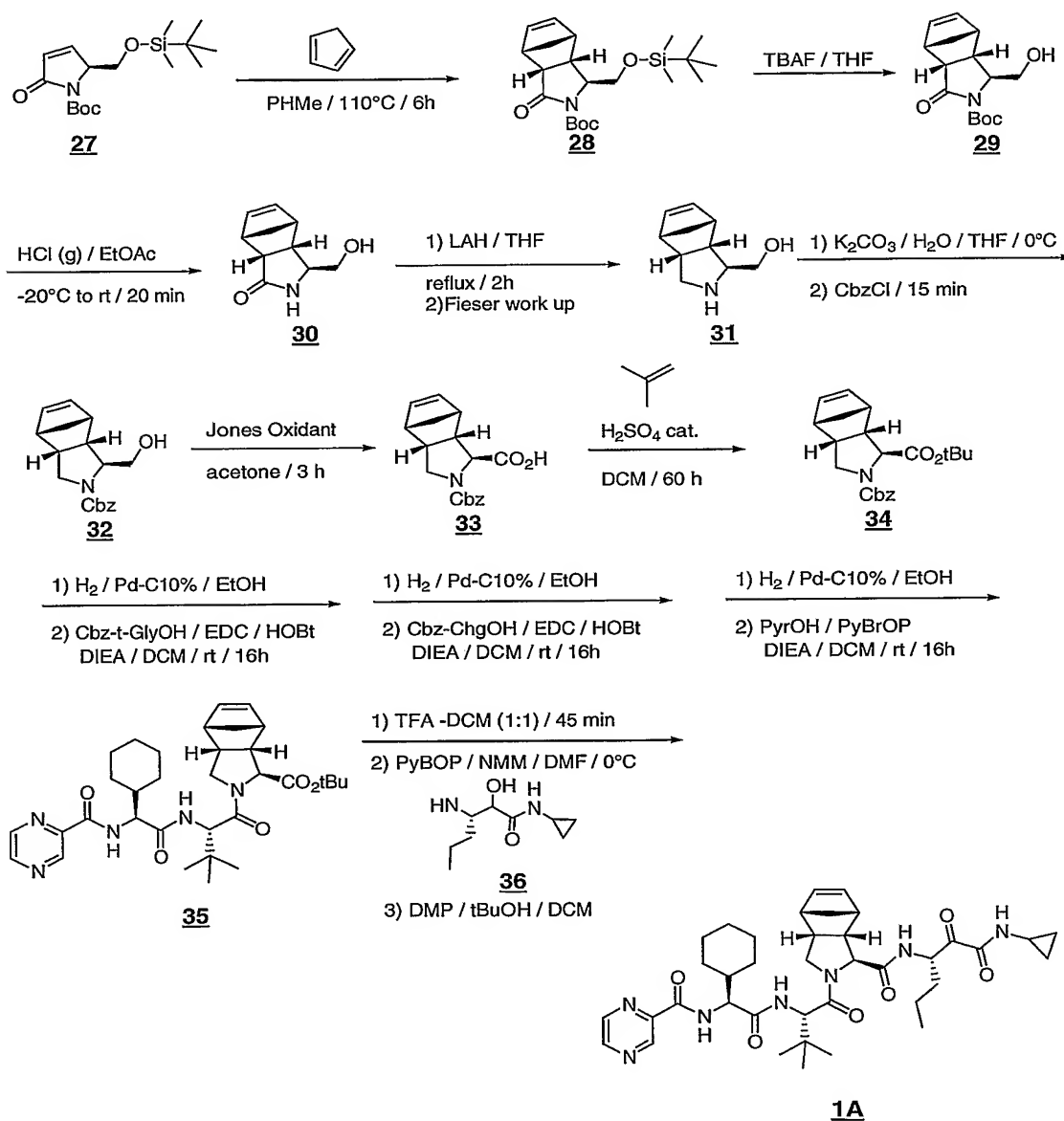
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Preparation of compounds of Formula (IV):Scheme 20

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Preparation of compounds of Formula (III):Scheme 21**26**

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Scheme 22**Preparation of Compound 1A:**

5

Compounds **1** to **26** and compound **1A** in Schemes 1-15, 19-22 illustrate the multicyclic core of the peptidomimetic compounds of the present invention. These

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cores are readily converted into the compounds of the present invention by methods well known in the art.

For example, compounds 1 to 8 in Schemes 1-7 illustrate the core in compounds of formula (I).

5 Compound 1, e.g., can be converted into a compound of formula (I) using the methods of, e.g., Schemes 16-18.

Compounds 9 - 12 in Scheme 8 illustrate the cores in compounds of formula (II). Compounds 9 to 12 can be readily converted into compounds of formula (II) using the methods of, e.g., Schemes 16-18.

Compounds 13 and 14 in Scheme 9 illustrate the cores in compounds of formula (IV). Compounds 13 and 14 can be readily converted into compounds of formula (IV) using the methods of, e.g., Schemes 16-18.

15 Compound 26 in Scheme 21 illustrates the core in compounds of formula (III). Compound 26 can be readily converted into a compound of formula (III) using the methods of, e.g., Schemes 16-18.

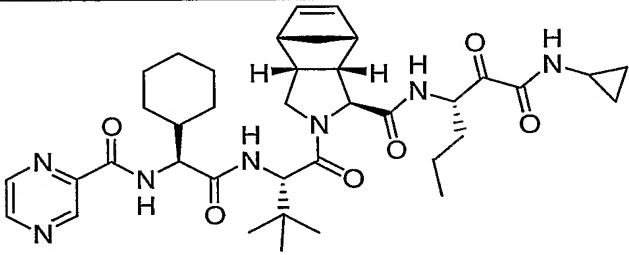
One of skill in the art will readily appreciate that the methods of Schemes 1-22 can be readily applied to any other ring or ring system within the scope of the present invention. Thus, Schemes 1-22 provide a facile synthetic route to the compounds of the present invention.

25 As set forth above, the compounds of this invention are capable of inhibiting the activity of HCV NS3-NS4A protease. In order to quantitate the activity of the compounds of this invention, cells containing HCV replicon were incubated with the compounds of this invention, and a Taqman Real Time PCR assay was conducted to determine the percentage inhibition of HCV RNA level

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and the IC_{50} were calculated therefrom. The results are shown below in Table 1:

TABLE 1

Cmpd. No.	Structure	K _i (nM)	IC ₅₀ (nM)
1A		39	202

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Another embodiment of this invention provides a composition comprising a compound of formula (I), formula (II), formula (III), or formula (IV) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in an amount
5 effective to decrease the viral load in a sample or in a patient, wherein said virus encodes a serine protease necessary for the viral life cycle, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

If pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the
10 compounds of this invention are utilized in these compositions, those salts are preferably derived from inorganic or organic acids and bases. Included among such acid salts are the following: acetate, adipate, alginate, aspartate, benzoate, benzene sulfonate,
15 bisulfate, butyrate, citrate, camphorate, camphor sulfonate, cyclopentane-propionate, digluconate, dodecylsulfate, ethanesulfonate, fumarate, glucoheptanoate, glycerophosphate, hemisulfate, heptanoate, hexanoate, hydrochloride, hydrobromide,
20 hydroiodide, 2-hydroxyethanesulfonate, lactate, maleate, methanesulfonate, 2-naphthalenesulfonate, nicotinate, oxalate, pamoate, pectinate, persulfate, 3-phenyl-propionate, picrate, pivalate, propionate, succinate, tartrate, thiocyanate, tosylate and
25 undecanoate. Base salts include ammonium salts, alkali metal salts, such as sodium and potassium salts, alkaline earth metal salts, such as calcium and magnesium salts, salts with organic bases, such as dicyclohexylamine salts, N-methyl-D-glucamine, and salts with amino acids
30 such as arginine, lysine, and so forth.

Also, the basic nitrogen-containing groups may be quaternized with such agents as lower alkyl halides,

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such as methyl, ethyl, propyl, and butyl chloride, bromides and iodides; dialkyl sulfates, such as dimethyl, diethyl, dibutyl and diamyl sulfates, long chain halides such as decyl, lauryl, myristyl and stearyl chlorides, bromides and iodides, aralkyl halides, such as benzyl and phenethyl bromides and others. Water or oil-soluble or dispersible products are thereby obtained.

The compounds utilized in the compositions and methods of this invention may also be modified by appending appropriate functionalities to enhance selective biological properties. Such modifications are known in the art and include those which increase biological penetration into a given biological system (e.g., blood, lymphatic system, central nervous system), increase oral availability, increase solubility to allow administration by injection, alter metabolism and alter rate of excretion.

Pharmaceutically acceptable carriers that may be used in these compositions include, but are not limited to, ion exchangers, alumina, aluminum stearate, lecithin, serum proteins, such as human serum albumin, buffer substances such as phosphates, glycine, sorbic acid, potassium sorbate, partial glyceride mixtures of saturated vegetable fatty acids, water, salts or electrolytes, such as protamine sulfate, disodium hydrogen phosphate, potassium hydrogen phosphate, sodium chloride, zinc salts, colloidal silica, magnesium trisilicate, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, cellulose-based substances, polyethylene glycol, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, polyacrylates, waxes, polyethylene-polyoxypropylene-block polymers, polyethylene glycol and wool fat.

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According to a preferred embodiment, the compositions of this invention are formulated for pharmaceutical administration to a mammal, preferably a human being.

5 Such pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention may be administered orally, parenterally, by inhalation spray, topically, rectally, nasally, buccally, vaginally or via an implanted reservoir. The term "parenteral" as used herein includes subcutaneous,
10 intravenous, intramuscular, intra-articular, intra-synovial, intrasternal, intrathecal, intrahepatic, intralesional and intracranial injection or infusion techniques. Preferably, the compositions are administered orally or intravenously.

15 Sterile injectable forms of the compositions of this invention may be aqueous or oleaginous suspension. These suspensions may be formulated according to techniques known in the art using suitable dispersing or wetting agents and suspending agents. The sterile
20 injectable preparation may also be a sterile injectable solution or suspension in a non-toxic parenterally acceptable diluent or solvent, for example as a solution in 1,3-butanediol. Among the acceptable vehicles and solvents that may be employed are water, Ringer's
25 solution and isotonic sodium chloride solution. In addition, sterile, fixed oils are conventionally employed as a solvent or suspending medium. For this purpose, any bland fixed oil may be employed including synthetic mono- or di-glycerides. Fatty acids, such as oleic acid and
30 its glyceride derivatives are useful in the preparation of injectables, as are natural pharmaceutically-acceptable oils, such as olive oil or castor oil,

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especially in their polyoxyethylated versions. These oil solutions or suspensions may also contain a long-chain alcohol diluent or dispersant, such as carboxymethyl cellulose or similar dispersing agents which are commonly
5 used in the formulation of pharmaceutically acceptable dosage forms including emulsions and suspensions. Other commonly used surfactants, such as Tweens, Spans and other emulsifying agents or bioavailability enhancers which are commonly used in the manufacture of
10 pharmaceutically acceptable solid, liquid, or other dosage forms may also be used for the purposes of formulation.

Dosage levels of between about 0.01 and about 100 mg/kg body weight per day, preferably between about
15 0.5 and about 75 mg/kg body weight per day of the protease inhibitor compounds described herein are useful in a monotherapy for the prevention and treatment of antiviral, particularly anti-HCV mediated disease. Typically, the pharmaceutical compositions of this
20 invention will be administered from about 1 to about 5 times per day or alternatively, as a continuous infusion. Such administration can be used as a chronic or acute therapy. The amount of active ingredient that may be combined with the carrier materials to produce a single
25 dosage form will vary depending upon the host treated and the particular mode of administration. A typical preparation will contain from about 5% to about 95% active compound (w/w). Preferably, such preparations contain from about 20% to about 80% active compound.

30 When the compositions of this invention comprise a combination of a compound of formula I, II, III or IV, and one or more additional therapeutic or

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prophylactic agents, both the compound and the additional agent should be present at dosage levels of between about 10 to 100%, and more preferably between about 10 to 80% of the dosage normally administered in a monotherapy regimen.

The pharmaceutical compositions of this invention may be orally administered in any orally acceptable dosage form including, but not limited to, capsules, tablets, aqueous suspensions or solutions. In the case of tablets for oral use, carriers that are commonly used include lactose and corn starch. Lubricating agents, such as magnesium stearate, are also typically added. For oral administration in a capsule form, useful diluents include lactose and dried cornstarch. When aqueous suspensions are required for oral use, the active ingredient is combined with emulsifying and suspending agents. If desired, certain sweetening, flavoring or coloring agents may also be added.

Alternatively, the pharmaceutical compositions of this invention may be administered in the form of suppositories for rectal administration. These may be prepared by mixing the agent with a suitable non-irritating excipient which is solid at room temperature but liquid at rectal temperature and therefore will melt in the rectum to release the drug. Such materials include cocoa butter, beeswax and polyethylene glycols.

The pharmaceutical compositions of this invention may also be administered topically, especially when the target of treatment includes areas or organs readily accessible by topical application, including

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diseases of the eye, the skin, or the lower intestinal tract. Suitable topical formulations are readily prepared for each of these areas or organs.

Topical application for the lower intestinal tract may be effected in a rectal suppository formulation (see above) or in a suitable enema formulation. Topically-transdermal patches may also be used.

For topical applications, the pharmaceutical compositions may be formulated in a suitable ointment containing the active component suspended or dissolved in one or more carriers. Carriers for topical administration of the compounds of this invention include, but are not limited to, mineral oil, liquid petrolatum, white petrolatum, propylene glycol, polyoxyethylene, polyoxypropylene compound, emulsifying wax and water. Alternatively, the pharmaceutical compositions may be formulated in a suitable lotion or cream containing the active components suspended or dissolved in one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers. Suitable carriers include, but are not limited to, mineral oil, sorbitan monostearate, polysorbate 60, cetyl esters wax, cetearyl alcohol, 2-octyldodecanol, benzyl alcohol and water.

For ophthalmic use, the pharmaceutical compositions may be formulated as micronized suspensions in isotonic, pH adjusted sterile saline, or, preferably, as solutions in isotonic, pH adjusted sterile saline, either with or without a preservative such as benzylalkonium chloride. Alternatively, for ophthalmic uses, the pharmaceutical compositions may be formulated in an ointment such as petrolatum.

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The pharmaceutical compositions of this invention may also be administered by nasal aerosol or inhalation. Such compositions are prepared according to techniques well known in the art of pharmaceutical
5 formulation and may be prepared as solutions in saline, employing benzyl alcohol or other suitable preservatives, absorption promoters to enhance bioavailability, fluorocarbons, and/or other conventional solubilizing or dispersing agents.

10 Most preferred are pharmaceutical compositions formulated for oral administration.

In a related embodiment, the compositions of this invention additionally comprise another anti-viral agent, preferably an anti-HCV agent. Such anti-viral
15 agents include, but are not limited to, immunomodulatory agents, such as α -, β -, and γ -interferons and pegylated derivatized interferon- α compounds; other anti-viral agents, such as ribavirin and amantadine; other inhibitors of hepatitis C proteases (NS2-NS3 inhibitors
20 and NS3-NS4A inhibitors); inhibitors of other targets in the HCV life cycle, including helicase and polymerase inhibitors; inhibitors of internal ribosome entry; broad-spectrum viral inhibitors, such as IMPDH inhibitors (e.g., VX-497 and other IMPDH inhibitors disclosed in
25 United States Patent 5,807,876, mycophenolic acid and derivatives thereof); or combinations of any of the above.

Upon improvement of a patient's condition, a maintenance dose of a compound, composition or
30 combination of this invention may be administered, if necessary. Subsequently, the dosage or frequency of

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administration, or both, may be reduced, as a function of the symptoms, to a level at which the improved condition is retained when the symptoms have been alleviated to the desired level, treatment should cease. Patients may,
5 however, require intermittent treatment on a long-term basis upon any recurrence of disease symptoms.

It should also be understood that a specific dosage and treatment regimen for any particular patient will depend upon a variety of factors, including the
10 activity of the specific compound employed, the age, body weight, general health, sex, diet, time of administration, rate of excretion, drug combination, and the judgment of the treating physician and the severity of the particular disease being treated. The amount of
15 active ingredients will also depend upon the particular described compound and the presence or absence and the nature of the additional anti-viral agent in the composition.

According to another embodiment, the invention
20 provides a method for treating a patient infected with a virus characterized by a virally encoded serine protease that is necessary for the life cycle of the virus by administering to said patient a pharmaceutically acceptable composition of this invention. Preferably,
25 the methods of this invention are used to treat a patient suffering from a HCV infection. Such treatment may completely eradicate the viral infection or reduce the severity thereof. More preferably, the patient is a human being.

30 In an alternate embodiment, the methods of this invention additionally comprise the step of administering to said patient an anti-viral agent preferably an anti-

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HCV agent. Such anti-viral agents include, but are not limited to, immunomodulatory agents, such as α -, β -, and γ -interferons and pegylated derivatized interferon- α compounds; other anti-viral agents, such as ribavirin and
5 amantadine; other inhibitors of hepatitis C proteases (NS2-NS3 inhibitors and NS3-NS4A inhibitors); inhibitors of other targets in the HCV life cycle, including helicase and polymerase inhibitors; inhibitors of internal ribosome entry; broad-spectrum viral inhibitors,
10 such as IMPDH inhibitors (e.g., VX-497 and other IMPDH inhibitors disclosed in United States Patent 5,807,876, mycophenolic acid and derivatives thereof); or combinations of any of the above.

Such additional agent may be administered to
15 said patient as part of a single dosage form comprising both a compound of this invention and an additional anti-viral agent. Alternatively the additional agent may be administered separately from the compound of this invention, as part of a multiple dosage form, wherein
20 said additional agent is administered prior to, together with or following a composition comprising a compound of this invention.

In yet another embodiment the present invention provides a method of pre-treating a biological substance
25 intended for administration to a patient comprising the step of contacting said biological substance with a pharmaceutically acceptable composition comprising a compound of this invention. Such biological substances include, but are not limited to, blood and components
30 thereof such as plasma, platelets, subpopulations of blood cells and the like; organs such as kidney, liver,

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heart, lung, etc; sperm and ova; bone marrow and components thereof, and other fluids to be infused into a patient such as saline, dextrose, etc.

According to another embodiment the invention
5 provides methods of treating materials that may potentially come into contact with a virus characterized by a virally encoded serine protease necessary for its life cycle. This method comprises the step of contacting said material with a compound according to the invention.
10 Such materials include, but are not limited to, surgical instruments and garments; laboratory instruments and garments; blood collection apparatuses and materials; and invasive devices, such as shunts, stents, etc.

In another embodiment, the compounds of this
15 invention may be used as laboratory tools to aid in the isolation of a virally encoded serine protease. This method comprises the steps of providing a compound of this invention attached to a solid support; contacting said solid support with a sample containing a viral
20 serine protease under conditions that cause said protease to bind to said solid support; and eluting said serine protease from said solid support. Preferably, the viral serine protease isolated by this method is HCV NS3-NS4A protease.

25 In order that this invention be more fully understood, the following examples are set forth. These examples are for the purpose of illustration only and are not to be construed as limiting the scope of the invention in any way.

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Example 1

3-(*tert*-Butyl-dimethyl-silanyloxymethyl)-5-oxo-4-aza-tricyclo[5.2.1.0^{2,6}]dec-8-ene-4-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (28)

5 2-(*tert*-Butyl-dimethyl-silanyloxymethyl)-5-oxo-2,5-dihydro-pyrrole-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (27) (4 g; 12.2 mmol) and freshly distilled cyclopentadiene (8 mL; 12 eq.) were heated in a sealed tube in toluene for 6h at 110°C. Concentration and purification by flash
10 chromatography (10% EtOAc/ 90% hexanes) afforded 3.23 g (67%) of the desired product 28. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 6.1 (bs, 1H), 6.0 (bs, 1H), 3.8 (dd, 1H), 3.6 (d, 1H), 3.5 (s, 1H), 3.3 (s, 1H), 3.1 (dd, 1H), 2.9 (s, 1H), 2.6 (bs, 1H), 1.6 (d, 2H), 1.5 (s, 9H), 1.3 (d, 1H), .9 (s, 9H), .15 (s,
15 3H), .1 (s, 3H)ppm.

Example 2

3-Hydroxymethyl-5-oxo-4-aza-tricyclo[5.2.1.0^{2,6}]dec-8-ene-4-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (29)

20 A solution of 28 (3.2 g; 8.1 mmol) in 60 mL of THF and acetic acid (1.16 mL; 20.3 mmol) was treated with TBAF 1M in THF. The reaction mixture was stirred for 16h then was diluted with CH₂Cl₂ (120 mL) and washed with water (75 mL). The organic layer was dried with sodium sulfate and
25 concentrated in vacuo to a yellow oil. Flash chromatography (60% EtOAc/ 40% hexanes) afforded 1.81 g (81%) of the desired product 29. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 6.2 (bs, 1H), 6.1 (bs, 1H), 3.8 (d, 1H), 3.6 (m, 2H), 3.3 (s, 1H), 3.15 (dd, 1H), 3.1 (s, 1H), 2.5 (dd, 1H), 1.5 (app.t,
30 3H), 1.35 (s, 9H)ppm.

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Example 3

3-Hydroxymethyl-4-aza-tricycloc-4-carboxylic acid benzyl ester (32)

To a solution of 29 (1.81 g, 6.5 mmol) in 50 mL of dry ethyl acetate at 0°C was bubbled dry HCl gas for 5 minutes. Stirring was continued while warming up to room temperature over a period of 10 minutes. Concentration to dryness afforded a solid residue that was subjected to lithium aluminium hydride reduction (2.5 equivalents) in refluxing THF for 2 h. Fieser work up afforded 1.07 g of the reduced product 31 that was used directly for the next step. A solution of 31 (1.07 g, 6.5 mmol) in 10 mL of dry THF was added to a vigorously stirred solution of potassium carbonate in 4 mL of water at -2°C to 0°C. Cbz-Cl was added dropwise maintaining the temperature around 0°C. After the addition was completed (10 minutes), the reaction was further stirred for an additional 15 minutes at 0°C and poured onto crushed ice and water (14 mL). Sodium chloride was added to saturate the aqueous phase. The organic phase was separated and the aqueous further extracted (3X 50 mL) with ethyl acetate. The combined organic phase was washed with 5% aqueous HCl, water and brine, dried (Na₂SO₄) and concentrated in vacuo to give, after flash chromatography (50% EtOAc/ 50% hexanes) 960 mg (50%) of desired product 32. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.3 (m, 5H), 6.2 (M, 2H), 5.1 (m, 2H), 3.8 (m, 2H), 3.4 (m, 2H), 3.0 (m, 3H), 2.5 (m, 2H), 1.3 (m, 2H)ppm.

Example 4

4-Aza-tricyclo[5.2.1.0^{2,6}]dec-8-ene-3,4-dicarboxylic acid 4-benzyl ester 3-*tert*-butyl ester (34)

Compound 32 (410 mg, 1.37 mmol) was dissolved in 5 mL of acetone and added dropwise to a stirred solution of Jones

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reagent (1.1 mL) in 1 mL of acetone at 0°C. The reaction mixture was stirred at 5°C for 3 h and was concentrated in vacuo to a dark residue. Residue was re-dissolved in ethyl acetate (50 mL) and washed (5X 10 mL). The organic phase dried (Na₂SO₄) and concentrated in vacuo to give 400 mg (93%) of compound 33 that was used directly for the next step. To a solution of 33 (400 mg, 1.28 mmol) in 10 mL of CH₂Cl₂ containing a catalytic amount of concentrated sulfuric acid at -20°C was condensed 2 mL of isobutylene. The tube was sealed and stirred at room temperature for 60 h. The excess isobutylene was released and the CH₂Cl₂ removed in vacuo to a residue that was subjected to after flash chromatography (20% EtOAc/ 80% hexanes) which gave 378 mg (80%) of the desired ester 34. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.3 (m, 5H), 6.2 (m, 2H), 5.0 (m, 2H), 3.8 (m, 1H), 3.5 (m, 1H), 3.2 (m, 1H), 3.1 (m, 1H), 2.8 (m, 3H), 1.5 (m, 2H), 1.2 (m, 9H)ppm.

Example 5

4-(2-{2-Cyclohexyl-2-[(pyrazine-2-carbonyl)-amino]-acetylamino}-3,3-dimethyl-butyryl)-4-azatricyclo[5.2.1.0^{2,6}]dec-8-ene-3-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (35)

Removal of the Cbz group of 34 (378 mg, 1.02 mmol) with hydrogenation under 1 atm of hydrogen using Pd-C10% in ethanol gave, after 5 h, the desired aminoester intermediate in quantitative yield.

The crude compound was coupled to *tert*-butylglycine shown in the next step. To a solution of Cbz-*tert*-butyl glycine (271 mg, 1.02 mmol) in 2 mL of CH₂Cl₂ at 0°C was added EDC (235 mg, 1.23 mmol), HOBt (203 mg, 1.33 mmol) and DIEA (.534 mL, 3.07 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred at 0°C for 15 min. after

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which, the above amino ester was slowly added in 2 mL of CH_2Cl_2 . The resulting reaction mixture was stirred at room temp. for 16 h. Concentration gave a residue that was re-dissolved in EtOAc. Successive washes with 0.5N HCL, saturated aqueous NaHCO_3 and brine gave after drying (Na_2SO_4) and concentration *in vacuo* the desired product. Flash chromatography (20% EtOAc/ 80% hexanes) provided 480 mg (100%) of pure dipeptide. The Cbz group of the dipeptide was removed as described above and the resulting aminoester dipeptide was coupled to Cbz-cyclohexyl glycine shown in the next step.

To a solution of Cbz-cyclohexyl glycine (289 mg, 1 mmol) in 2 mL of CH_2Cl_2 at 0°C was added EDC (228 mg, 1.19 mmol), HOBT (190 mg, 1.29 mmol) and DIEA (.517 mL, 2.97 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred at 0°C for 15 min. after which, the above amino ester was slowly added in 2 mL of CH_2Cl_2 . The resulting reaction mixture was stirred at room temp. for 16 h. Concentration gave a residue that was re-dissolved in EtOAc. Successive washes with 0.5N HCL, satd' aqueous NaHCO_3 and brine gave after drying (Na_2SO_4) and concentration *in vacuo* the desired product which was subjected to flash chromatography (20% EtOAc/ 80% hexanes) to provide 556 mg (90%) of pure tripeptide. The Cbz group of the tripeptide was removed as described above and the resulting aminoester tripeptide was coupled to 1,4-pyrazine carboxylic acid shown in the next step.

To a solution of 1,4-pyrazine carboxylic acid (110 mg, 0.891 mmol) in 2 mL of CH_2Cl_2 was added PyBrop (457 mg, 0.98 mmol and DIEA (0.465 mL, 2.67 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred at room temp. for 15 min. after which, the above amino ester was slowly added in 2

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mL of CH₂Cl₂. The resulting reaction mixture was stirred at room temp. for 16 h. Concentration gave a residue that was re-dissolved in EtOAc. Successive washes with 0.5N HCL, satd' aqueous NaHCO₃ and brine gave after drying (Na₂SO₄) and concentration *in vacuo* the desired product which was subjected to flash chromatography (50% EtOAc/50% hexanes) to provide 410 mg (79%) of pure capped tripeptide 35. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 9.3 (s, 1H), 8.8 (s, 1H), 8.5 (s, 1H), 8.3 (d, 1H), 6.7 (d, 1H), 4.9 (d, 1H), 4.7 (s, 1H), 4.5 (tr, 1H), 3.95 (d, 1H), 3.6 (app. dd, 1H), 2.6 (m, 2H), 2.3 (d, 2H), 1.75 (m, 5H), 1.5 to 0.9 (m, 12H), 1.4 (s, 9H), 1.0 (s, 9H)ppm.

Example 6

4-(2-{2-Cyclohexyl-2-[(pyrazine-2-carbonyl)-amino]-acetyl-amino}-3,3-dimethyl-butyryl)-4-azatricyclo[5.2.1.0^{2,6}]dec-8-ene-3-carboxylic acid (1-cycloproylaminooxalyl-butyl)-amide (1A)

The t-butyl ester group of the capped tripeptide 35 (410 mg, 0.688 mmol) was cleaved with a 1:1 mixture of TFA-CH₂Cl₂ at room temp. for 45 minutes and concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting aminoester dipeptide was coupled to hydroxyamide 36 shown in the next step.

To a stirring solution of the capped tripeptide acid in 6 mL of dry DMF at 0°C was added, PyBOP (376 mg, .722 mmol) followed by NMM (0.226 mL, 2.06 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h at room temp. after which a solution of 36 (168 mg, 0.758 mmol) and 0.226 mL of NMM was slowly added. The coupling reaction was stirred for 16 hours, diluted with ethyl acetate and was successively washed with; water (3X), citric acid 10%, water and brine. The organic layer was dried (Na₂SO₄) and concentrated *in vacuo*. Flash chromatography (2.5% MeOH/

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97.5% ethyl acetate) provided 362 mg of hydroxy amide tetrapeptide that was oxidized with Dess-Martin periodinane reagent (650 mg, 1.53 mmol) and t-butanol (.65 mL) in 5 mL of CH₂Cl₂ at room temp. for 3 hours. The
5 reaction mixture was quenched with sodium thiosulfate 1M solution (2 mL) and stirred until the two phases were clearly separated. The organic layer was diluted with 5 more mL of CH₂Cl₂ and washed (3X) with 10% potassium carbonate aqueous solution (5 mL), dried (Na₂SO₄) and
10 concentrated in vacuo. Flash chromatography (2.5% MeOH/ 97.5% ethyl acetate) provided 270 mg of ketoamide tetrapeptide 1A. LCMS M+H = 706.42, M-H = 704.42. Retention Time (10-90% MeCN-H₂O with .1% TFA over 6 minutes) = 3.94 min.

15

Example 7

Cells containing hepatitis C virus (HCV) replicon were maintained in DMEM containing 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS), 0.25 mg per ml of G418, with appropriate supplements (media A).

20

On day 1, replicon cell monolayer was treated with a trypsin:EDTA mixture, removed, and then dilutedh media A into a final concentration of 100,000 cells per ml wit. 10,000 cells in 100 ul are plated into each well of a 96-well tissue culture plate, and culture overnight
25 in a tissue culture incubator at 37°C.

25

On day 2, compounds (in 100% DMSO) were serially diluted into DMEM containing 2% FBS, 0.5% DMSO, with appropriate supplements (media B). The final concentration of DMSO was maintained at 0.5% throughout
30 the dilution series.

30

The media on the replicon cell monolayer was removed, and then media B containing various

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concentrations of compounds was added. Media B without any compound was added to other wells as no compound controls.

5 Cells were incubated with compound or 0.5% DMSO in media B for 48 hours in a tissue culture incubator at 37°C.

 At the end of the 48-hour incubation, the media was removed, and the replicon cell monolayer was washed
10 once with PBS and stored at -80°C prior to RNA extraction.

 Culture plates with treated replicon cell monolayers were thawed, and a fixed amount of another RNA virus, such as Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus (BVDV) was
15 added to cells in each well. RNA extraction reagents (such as reagents from RNeasy kits) were added to the cells immediately to avoid degradation of RNA. Total RNA was extracted according the instruction of manufacturer with modification to improve extraction efficiency and
20 consistency. Finally, total cellular RNA, including HCV replicon RNA, was eluted and stored at -80°C until further processing.

 A Taqman real-time RT-PCR quantification assay was set up with two sets of specific primers and probe.
25 One was for HCV and the other was for BVDV. Total RNA extractants from treated HCV replicon cells were added to the PCR reactions for quantification of both HCV and BVDV RNA in the same PCR well. Experimental failure was flagged and rejected based on the level of BVDV RNA in
30 each well. The level of HCV RNA in each well was calculated according to a standard curve that is run in the same PCR plate. The percentage of inhibition or

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decrease of HCV RNA level due to compound treatment was calculated using the DMSO or no compound control as 0% of inhibition. The IC₅₀ (concentration at which 50% inhibition of HCV RNA level is observed) was calculated from the titration curve of any given compound.

The IC₅₀ values inhibitory activity of some of the compounds of the present invention is shown in Table 1 above.

Example 8

The K_i determinations were performed as follows. The K_i values for some compounds of the present invention are recited above in Table 1.

HPLC Microbore method for separation of 5AB substrate and products

Substrate
 NH₂-Glu-Asp-Val-Val-(alpha)Abu-Cys-Ser-Met-Ser-Tyr-COOH
 Stock solution of 20 mM 5AB was made in DMSO w/ 0.2M DTT. This was stored in aliquots at -20 C.
 Buffer: 50 mM HEPES, pH 7.8; 20% glycerol; 100 mM NaCl
 Total assay volume was 200 µL

	X1 (µL)	Conc. in assay
Buffer	155	see above
5 mM KK4A	1	25 µM
1 M DTT	1	5 mM
DMSO or inhibitor	3	1.5% v/v
0.25 µM tNS3	20	25 nM
200 µM 5AB (initiate)	20	20 µM

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The buffer was combined with KK4A, DTT, and tNS3; 177 μ L of this solution was distributed each into wells of 96 well plate and incubated at 30 °C for ~5-10 min.

3 μ L of appropriate concentration of test compound

5 dissolved in DMSO (DMSO only for control) was added to each well and incubate at 30 °C for 15 min.

Reaction was initiated by addition of 20 μ L of 200 μ M 5AB substrate (20 μ M concentration is equivalent or slightly lower than the K_m for 5AB) and incubated for 20 min at 30

10 °C. The reaction was terminated by addition of 50 μ L of 10% TFA 200 μ L aliquots were transferred to HPLC vials
The SMSY product was isolated from substrate and KK4A by the method which follows.

15 Microbore separation method

Instrumentation:

Hewlett Packard 1100

Degasser G1322A

Binary pump G1312A

20 Autosampler G1313A

Column thermostated chamber G1316A

Diode array detector G1315A

Column: Phenomenex Jupiter; 5 micron C18; 300 angstroms; 150x2 mm; P/O 00F-4053-B0

25 Column thermostat: 40 °C

Injection volume: 100 μ L

Solvent A = HPLC grade water + 0.1% TFA

Solvent B = HPLC grade acetonitrile + 0.1% TFA

Time (min)	%B	Flow (ml/min)	Max press.
---------------	----	------------------	---------------

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0	5	0.2	400
12	60	0.2	400
13	100	0.2	400
16	100	0.2	400
17	5	0.2	400

Stop time: 17 min

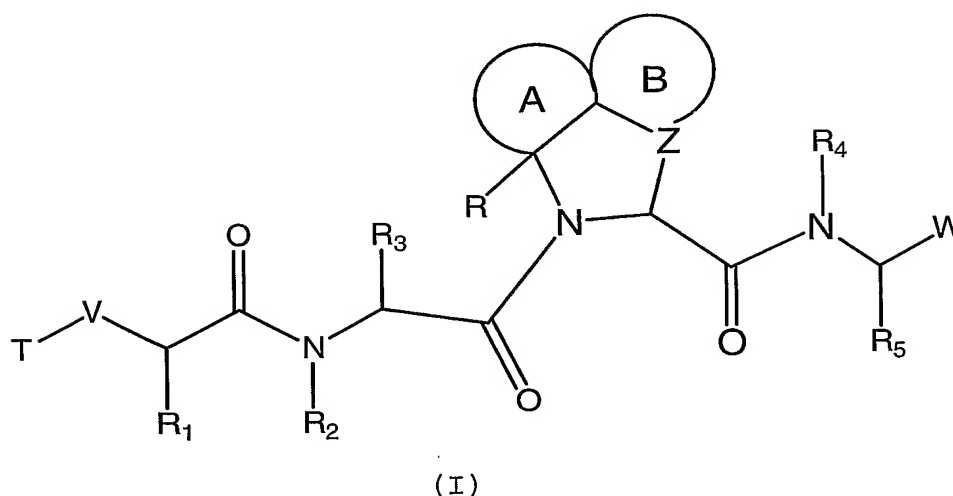
Post-run time: 10 min

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CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A compound of formula (I):



5 wherein:

ring A is a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring,
wherein ring A is optionally fused to a carbocyclic,
heterocyclic or heteroaryl ring;

wherein ring A has up to 3 substituents selected
10 independently from J;

ring B is a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring,
wherein ring B is optionally fused to a carbocyclic,
heterocyclic or heteroaryl ring;

wherein ring B has up to 3 substituents selected
15 independently from J;

J is halogen, -OR', -NO₂, -CF₃, -OCF₃, -R', oxo, -
OR', -O-benzyl, -O-phenyl, 1,2-methylenedioxy, 1,2-
ethylenedioxy, -N(R')₂, -SR', -SOR', -SO₂R', -C(O)R', -
COOR' or -CON(R')₂, wherein R' is independently selected
20 from:

hydrogen,
(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

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(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,
(C1-C12)-aliphatic-
[(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],
(C6-C10)-aryl,
5 (C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,
(C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,
(C6-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,
(C5-C10)-heteroaryl, or
(C5-C10)-heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic;

10 R₁ and R₃ are independently:

(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,
(C1-C12)-aliphatic-
[(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],
15 (C6-C10)-aryl,
(C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,
(C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,
(C6-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,
(C5-C10)-heteroaryl, or
20 (C5-C10)-heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

wherein each of R₁ and R₃ is independently and
optionally substituted with up to 3
substituents independently selected from J;
wherein up to 3 aliphatic carbon atoms in R₁ and
25 R₃ may be replaced by a heteroatom selected from
O, NH, S, SO, or SO₂ in a chemically stable
arrangement;

R₂ and R₄ are independently
hydrogen,

30 (C1-C12)-aliphatic,
(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic, or
(C6-C10)aryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

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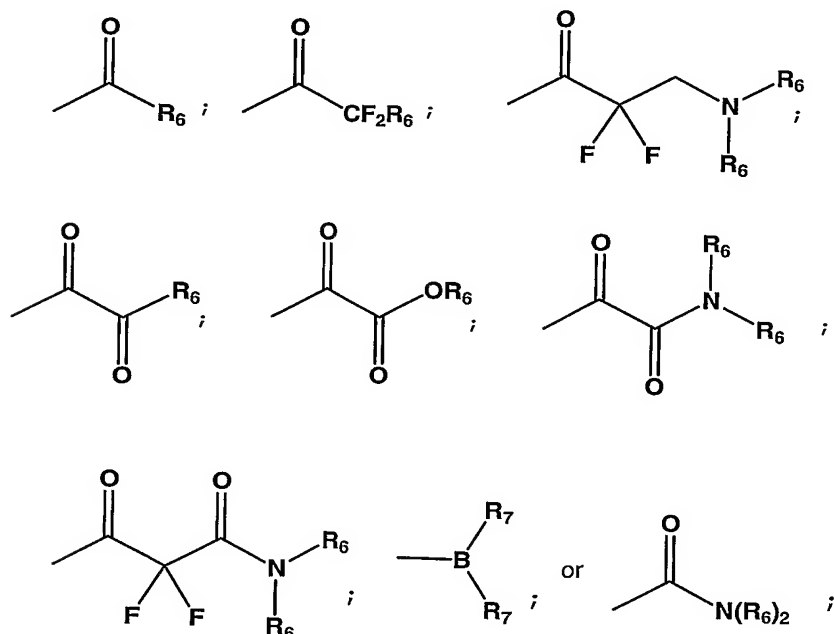
wherein each of R_2 and R_4 is independently and optionally substituted with up to 3 substituents independently selected from J; wherein up to two aliphatic carbon atoms in R_2 and R_4 may be replaced by a heteroatom selected from O, NH, S, SO, or SO_2 in a chemically stable arrangement;

Z is a carbon atom, -CHR-N-, -HN-CR- or -CHR-CHR-, -O-CHR, -S-CHR, -SO-CHR, - SO_2 -CHR, or -N-;

wherein R is aliphatic, aryl, aralkyl or cycloalkyl;

R_5 is -(C1-C12) aliphatic, wherein any hydrogen is optionally substituted with halogen, and wherein any hydrogen or halogen atom bound to any terminal carbon atom of R_5 is optionally substituted with sulfhydryl or hydroxy;

W is selected from: -C(O)OH;



wherein each R_6 is independently:
hydrogen,

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- (C1-C12)-aliphatic,
 (C1-C12)-aliphatic-
 [(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],
 (C6-C10)-aryl,
 5 (C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,
 (C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,
 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,
 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
 (C5-C10)heteroaryl, or
 10 (C5-C10)heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic, or
 two R₆ groups, which are bound to the same nitrogen
 atom, form together with that nitrogen atom, a (C3-C10)-
 heterocyclic ring;
 wherein R₆ is optionally substituted with up to 3 J
 15 substituents;
 each R₇ is hydroxy, alkoxy, or aryloxy; or
 each R₇ is an oxygen atom linked to an aliphatic
 group and, together with the boron to which they are each
 bound, the two R₇ groups form a 3-6 membered ring;
 20 V is a bond, -CH(R₈)-, -N(R₈)-, -O-, -O-CH(R₈),
 -CH(R₈)-O-, -S-, -S-CH(R₈)-, -CH(R₈)-S-, -C(O)-, -C(O)-O-,
 -O-C(O)-, -C(O)-S-, -C(O)-CHR₈-, -CHR₈-C(O)- -N(R₈)C(O)-
 -C(O)N(R₈)-, -S(O)-, -S(O)-CH(R₈), -CH(R₈)-S(O)-,
 -S(O)N(R₈)-, -N(R₈)S(O)-, -S(O)-N(R₈)-CHR₈, -N(R₈)-S(O)-
 25 CHR₈-, -CHR₈-S(O)₂, -S(O)₂-CH(R₈)-, -CH(R₈)-S(O)₂-,
 -S(O)₂N(R₈)-, -N(R₈)-S(O)₂-, -S(O)₂-N(R₈)-CHR₈ or -N(R₈)-
 S(O)₂-CHR₈;
 wherein R₈ is hydrogen or (C1-C12)-aliphatic;
 T is selected from:
 30 (C6-C10)-aryl,
 (C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,
 (C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,

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(C1-C12)-aliphatic-

[(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],

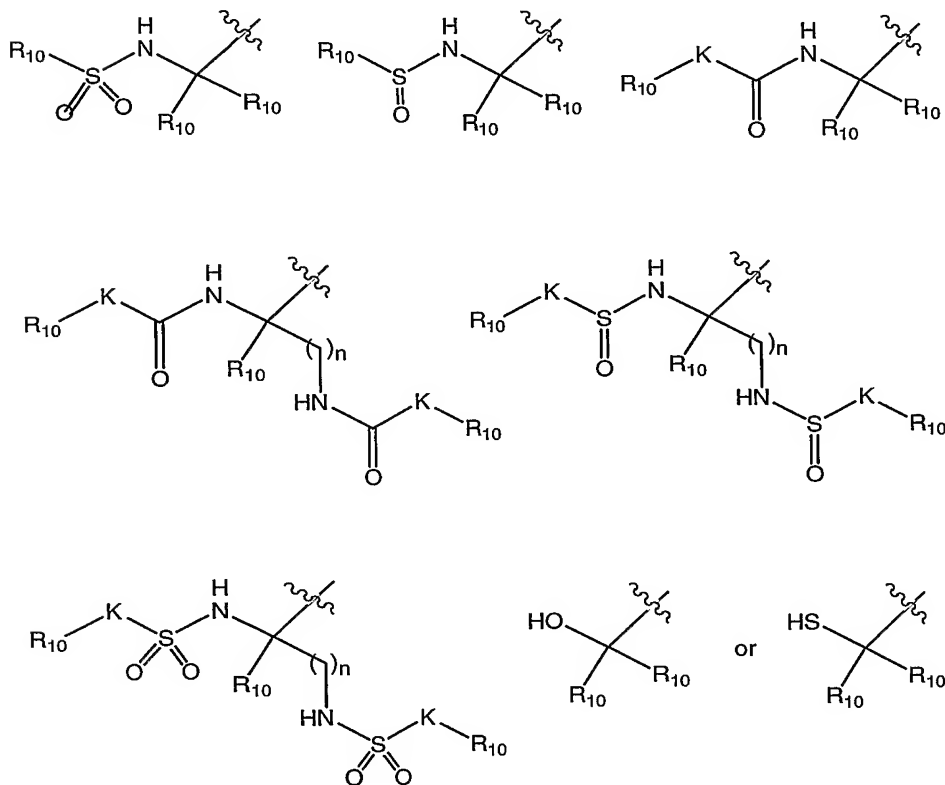
(C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,

(C3-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

5 (C5-C10)heteroaryl, or

(C5-C10)heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic; or

T is selected from:



10 wherein:

R₁₀ is:

hydrogen,

(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

(C1-C12)-aliphatic-

15 [(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],

(C6-C10)-aryl,

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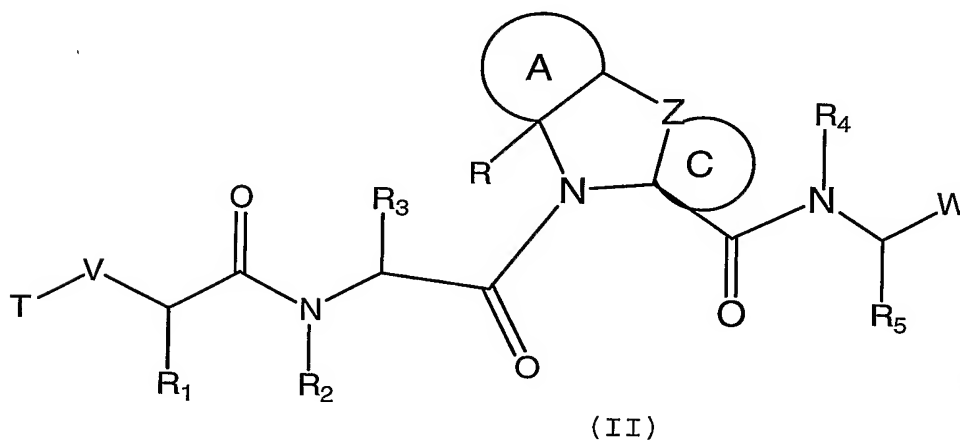
(C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,
 (C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,
 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,
 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
 5 (C5-C10)-heteroaryl, or
 (C5-C10)-heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

wherein each T is optionally substituted with up to
 3 J substituents;

K is a bond, (C1-C12)-aliphatic, -O-, -S-, -NR₉-, -
 10 C(O)-, or -C(O)-NR₉-, wherein R₉ is hydrogen or (C1-C12)-
 aliphatic; and

n is 1-3.

2. A compound of formula (II):



wherein:

ring A is a carbocyclic, heteroaryl or heterocyclic
 ring, wherein ring A is optionally fused to an
 carbocyclic, heterocyclic or heteroaryl ring;

wherein ring A has up to 4 substituents selected
 20 independently from J;

ring C is a cycloalkyl or heterocyclic ring;

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wherein ring C has up to 3 substituents selected independently from J;

J is halogen, -OR', -NO₂, -CF₃, -OCF₃, -R', oxo, -OR', -O-benzyl, -O-phenyl, 1,2-methylenedioxy, 1,2-ethylenedioxy, -N(R')₂, -SR', -SOR', -SO₂R', -C(O)R', -COOR' or -CON(R')₂, wherein R' is independently selected from:

hydrogen,
(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,
(C1-C12)-aliphatic-
[(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],
(C6-C10)-aryl,
(C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,
(C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,
(C6-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,
(C5-C10)-heteroaryl, or
(C5-C10)-heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic;

R₁ and R₃ are independently:

(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,
(C1-C12)-aliphatic-
[(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],
(C6-C10)-aryl,
(C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,
(C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,
(C6-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,
(C5-C10)-heteroaryl, or
(C5-C10)-heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

wherein each of R₁ and R₃ is independently and optionally substituted with up to 3 substituents independently selected from J;

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wherein up to 3 aliphatic carbon atoms in R_1 and R_3 may be replaced by a heteroatom selected from O, NH, S, SO, or SO_2 in a chemically stable arrangement;

5 R_2 and R_4 are independently hydrogen,

(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic, or

(C6-C10)aryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

10 wherein each of R_2 and R_4 is independently and optionally substituted with up to 3

substituents independently selected from J;

wherein up to two aliphatic carbon atoms in R_2 and R_4 may be replaced by a heteroatom selected from O, NH, S, SO, or SO_2 in a chemically stable arrangement;

15

Z is a carbon atom, -CHR-N-, -HN-CR- or -CHR-CHR-, -O-CHR, -S-CHR, -SO-CHR, - SO_2 -CHR, or -N-;

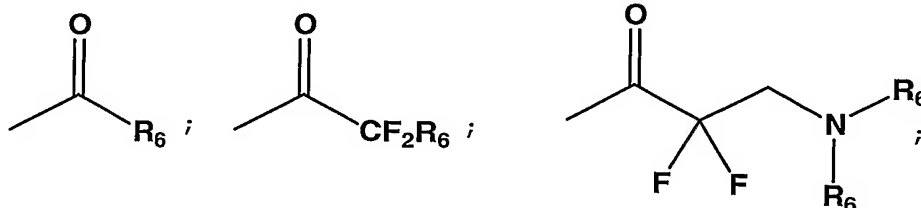
wherein R is aliphatic, aryl, aralkyl or cycloalkyl;

20

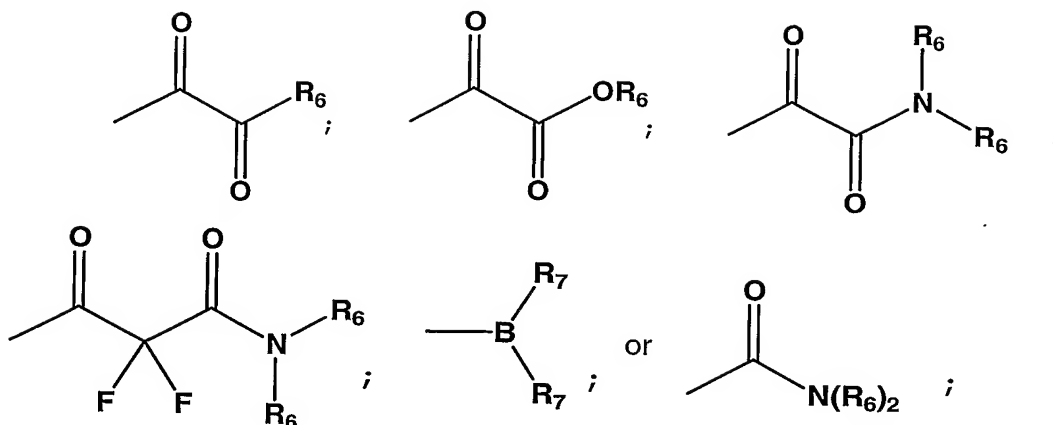
R_5 is -(C1-C12) aliphatic, wherein any hydrogen is optionally substituted with halogen, and wherein any hydrogen or halogen atom bound to any terminal carbon atom of R_5 is optionally substituted with sulfhydryl or hydroxy;

25

W is selected from: -C(O)OH;



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wherein each R₆ is independently:

- 5 hydrogen,
- (C1-C12)-aliphatic,
- (C1-C12)-aliphatic-
- [(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],
- (C6-C10)-aryl,
- 10 (C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12) aliphatic,
- (C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,
- (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,
- (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
- (C5-C10)heteroaryl, or
- 15 (C5-C10)heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic, or

two R₆ groups, which are bound to the same nitrogen atom, form together with that nitrogen atom, a (C3-C10)-heterocyclic ring;

- wherein R₆ is optionally substituted with up to 3 J
- 20 substituents;

each R₇ is hydroxy, alkoxy, or aryloxy; or

each R₇ is an oxygen atom linked to an aliphatic group and, together with the boron to which they are each bound, the two R₇ groups form a 3-6 membered ring;

- 25 V is a bond, -CH(R₈)-, -N(R₈)-, -O-, -O-CH(R₈),

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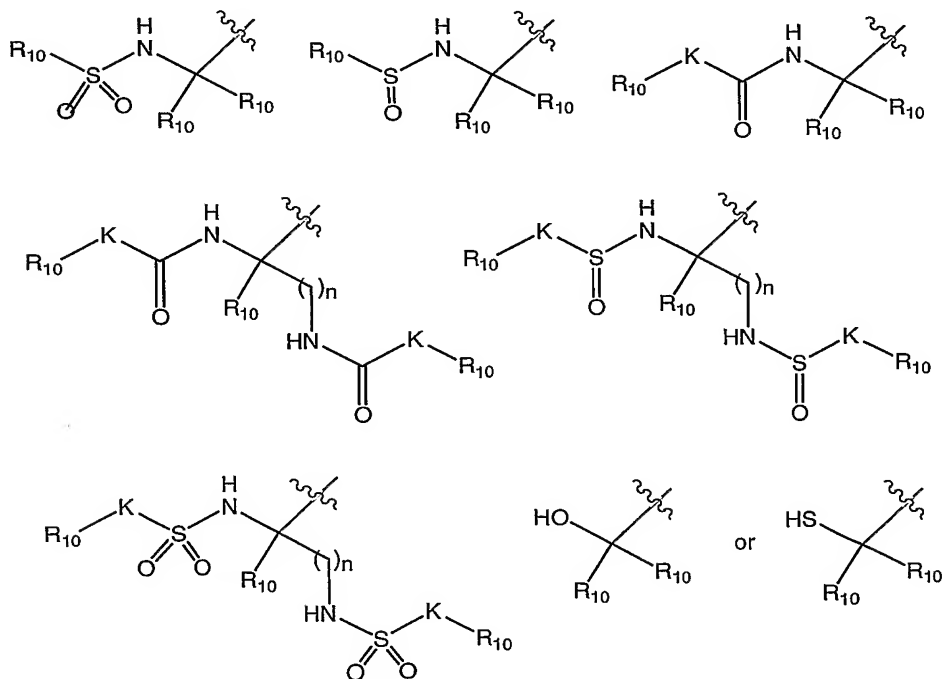
-CH(R₈)-O-, -S-, -S-CH(R₈)-, -CH(R₈)-S-, -C(O)-, -C(O)-O-,
 -O-C(O)-, -C(O)-S-, -C(O)-CH(R₈)-, -CH(R₈)-C(O)- -N(R₈)C(O)-
 -C(O)N(R₈)-, -S(O)-, -S(O)-CH(R₈), -CH(R₈)-S(O)-,
 -S(O)N(R₈)-, -N(R₈)S(O)-, -S(O)-N(R₈)-CH(R₈), -N(R₈)-S(O)-
 5 CHR₈-, -CH(R₈)-S(O)₂-, -S(O)₂-CH(R₈)-, -CH(R₈)-S(O)₂-,
 -S(O)₂N(R₈)-, -N(R₈)-S(O)₂-, -S(O)₂-N(R₈)-CH(R₈) or -N(R₈)-
 S(O)₂-CH(R₈);

wherein R₈ is hydrogen or (C1-C12)-aliphatic;

T is selected from:

10 (C6-C10)-aryl,
 (C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,
 (C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,
 (C1-C12)-aliphatic-
 [(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],
 15 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,
 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
 (C5-C10)heteroaryl, or
 (C5-C10)heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic; or

T is selected from:



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wherein:

R₁₀ is:

hydrogen,
 (C1-C12)-aliphatic,
 5 (C1-C12)-aliphatic-
 [(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],
 (C6-C10)-aryl,
 (C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,
 (C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,
 10 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,
 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
 (C5-C10)-heteroaryl, or
 (C5-C10)-heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

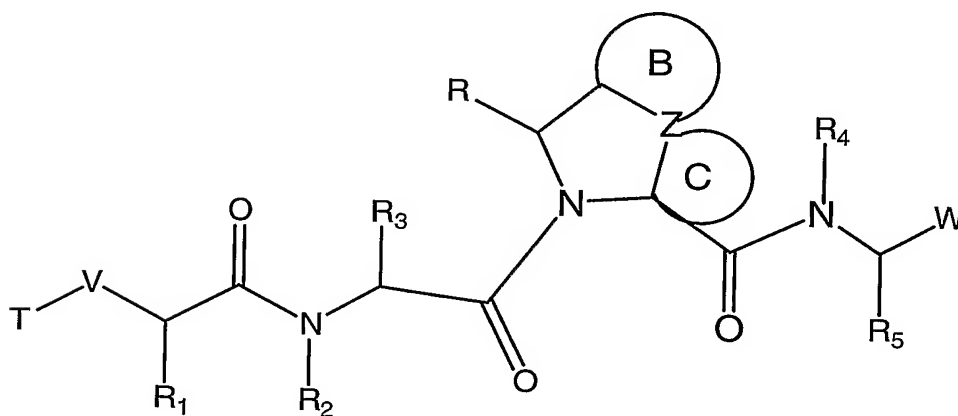
wherein each T is optionally substituted with up to
 15 3 J substituents;

K is a bond, (C1-C12)-aliphatic, -O-, -S-, -NR₉-, -
 C(O)-, or -C(O)-NR₉-, wherein R₉ is hydrogen or (C1-C12)-
 aliphatic; and

n is 1-3.

20

3. A compound of formula (III):



(III)

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wherein:

ring B is a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring,
wherein ring B is optionally fused to a carbocyclic,
heterocyclic or heteroaryl ring;

5 wherein ring B has up to 3 substituents selected
independently from J;

ring C is a cycloalkyl or heterocyclic ring;

wherein ring C has up to 3 substituents selected
independently from J;

10 Z is a carbon atom, -CHR-N-, -HN-CR- or -CHR-CHR-;
wherein, rings B and C are attached to the same
carbon atom in Z; or

rings B and C are attached vicinally to Z when Z is
-CHR-N-, -HN-CR- or -CHR-CHR-;

15 wherein R is aliphatic, aryl, aralkyl or cycloalkyl;

J is halogen, -OR', -NO₂, -CF₃, -OCF₃, -R', oxo, -
OR', -O-benzyl, -O-phenyl, 1,2-methylenedioxy, 1,2-
ethylenedioxy, -N(R')₂, -SR', -SOR', -SO₂R', -C(O)R', -
COOR' or -CON(R')₂, wherein R' is independently selected

20 from:

hydrogen,

(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,

(C1-C12)-aliphatic-

25 [(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],

(C6-C10)-aryl,

(C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,

(C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,

(C6-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,

30 (C5-C10)-heteroaryl, or

(C5-C10)-heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic;

R₁ and R₃ are independently:

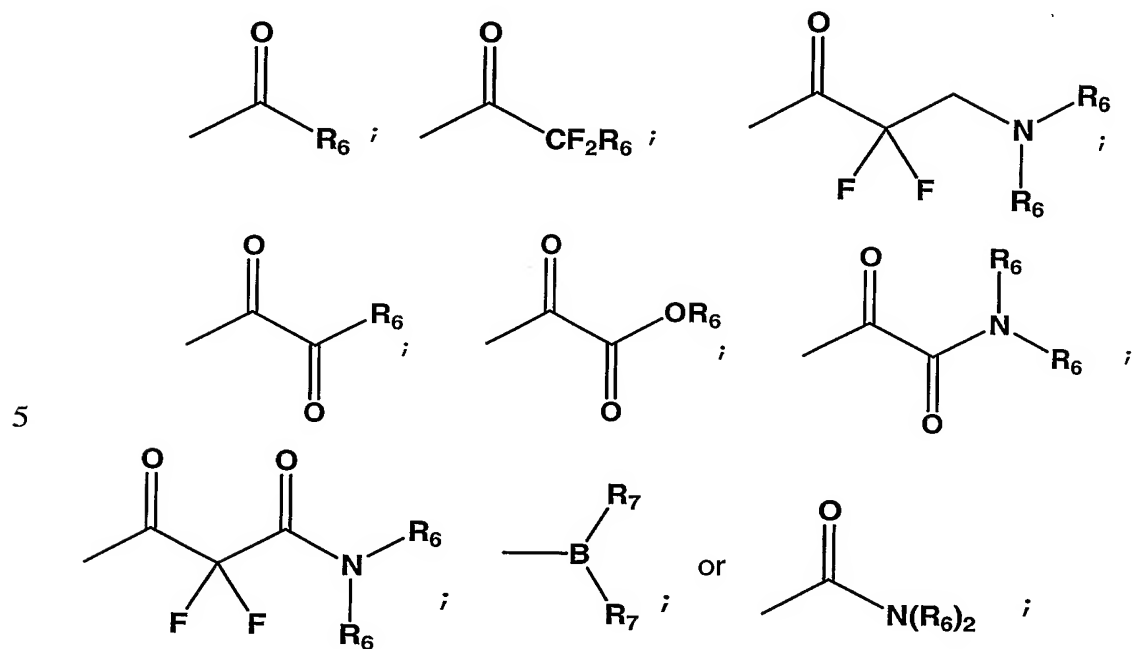
- 149 -

- (C1-C12)-aliphatic,
(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,
(C1-C12)-aliphatic-
[(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],
5 (C6-C10)-aryl,
(C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,
(C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,
(C6-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,
(C5-C10)-heteroaryl, or
10 (C5-C10)-heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
wherein each of R₁ and R₃ is independently and
optionally substituted with up to 3
substituents independently selected from J;
wherein up to 3 aliphatic carbon atoms in R₁ and
15 R₃ may be replaced by a heteroatom selected from
O, NH, S, SO, or SO₂ in a chemically stable
arrangement;
- R₂ and R₄ are independently
hydrogen,
20 (C1-C12)-aliphatic,
(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic, or
(C6-C10)aryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
wherein each of R₂ and R₄ is independently and
optionally substituted with up to 3
25 substituents independently selected from J;
wherein up to two aliphatic carbon atoms in R₂
and R₄ may be replaced by a heteroatom selected
from O, NH, S, SO, or SO₂ in a chemically stable
arrangement;
- 30 R₅ is -(C1-C12) aliphatic, wherein any hydrogen is
optionally substituted with halogen, and wherein any
hydrogen or halogen atom bound to any terminal carbon

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atom of R_5 is optionally substituted with sulfhydryl or hydroxy;

W is selected from: $-C(O)OH$;



hydrogen,

(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

(C1-C12)-aliphatic-

[(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],

(C6-C10)-aryl,

(C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,

(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,

(C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,

(C3-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

(C5-C10)heteroaryl, or

(C5-C10)heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic, or

two R_6 groups, which are bound to the same nitrogen atom, form together with that nitrogen atom, a (C3-C10)-heterocyclic ring;

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wherein R_6 is optionally substituted with up to 3 J substituents;

each R_7 is hydroxy, alkoxy, or aryloxy; or

each R_7 is an oxygen atom linked to an aliphatic group and, together with the boron to which they are each bound, the two R_7 groups form a 3-6 membered ring;

V is a bond, $-\text{CH}(R_8)-$, $-\text{N}(R_8)-$, $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{O}-\text{CH}(R_8)$, $-\text{CH}(R_8)-\text{O}-$, $-\text{S}-$, $-\text{S}-\text{CH}(R_8)-$, $-\text{CH}(R_8)-\text{S}-$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})-$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{O}-$, $-\text{O}-\text{C}(\text{O})-$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{S}-$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{CHR}_8-$, $-\text{CHR}_8-\text{C}(\text{O})-$, $-\text{N}(R_8)\text{C}(\text{O})-$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{N}(R_8)-$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})-$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})-\text{CH}(R_8)$, $-\text{CH}(R_8)-\text{S}(\text{O})-$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})\text{N}(R_8)-$, $-\text{N}(R_8)\text{S}(\text{O})-$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})-\text{N}(R_8)-\text{CHR}_8$, $-\text{N}(R_8)-\text{S}(\text{O})-\text{CHR}_8-$, $-\text{CHR}_8-\text{S}(\text{O})_2-$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2-\text{CH}(R_8)-$, $-\text{CH}(R_8)-\text{S}(\text{O})_2-$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2\text{N}(R_8)-$, $-\text{N}(R_8)-\text{S}(\text{O})_2-$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2-\text{N}(R_8)-\text{CHR}_8$ or $-\text{N}(R_8)-\text{S}(\text{O})_2-\text{CHR}_8$;

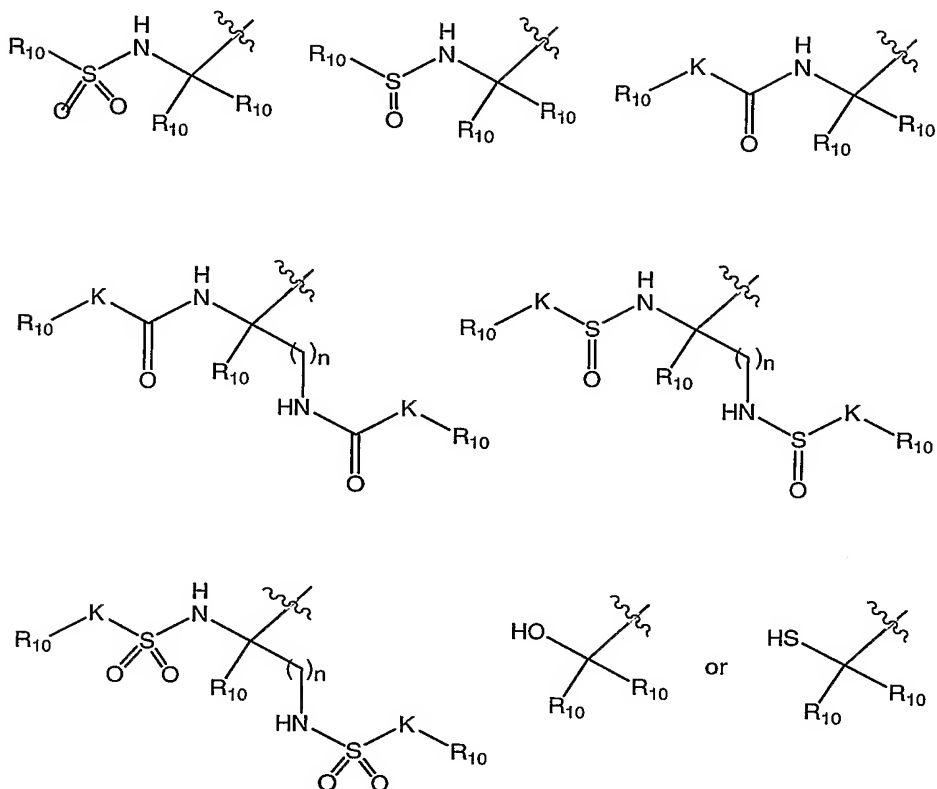
wherein R_8 is hydrogen or (C1-C12)-aliphatic;

T is selected from:

(C6-C10)-aryl,
 (C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,
 (C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,
 (C1-C12)-aliphatic-
 [(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],
 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,
 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
 (C5-C10)heteroaryl, or
 (C5-C10)heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic; or

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T is selected from:



5 wherein:

R₁₀ is:

hydrogen,

(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

(C1-C12)-aliphatic-

10 [(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],

(C6-C10)-aryl,

(C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,

(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,

(C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,

15 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

(C5-C10)-heteroaryl, or

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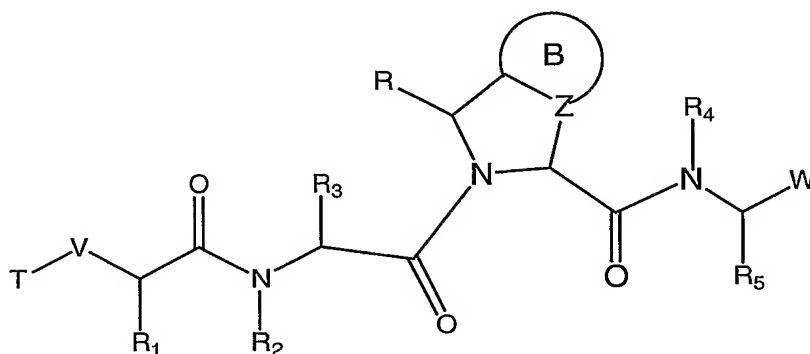
(C5-C10)-heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

wherein each T is optionally substituted with up to
3 J substituents;

K is a bond, (C1-C12)-aliphatic, -O-, -S-, -NR₉-, -
5 C(O)-, or -C(O)-NR₉-, wherein R₉ is hydrogen or (C1-C12)-
aliphatic; and

n is 1-3.

4. A compound of formula (IV):



10

(IV)

wherein:

ring B is a bridged bicyclic ring system containing
6-12 carbon atoms, wherein ring B is saturated or
15 partially unsaturated; or

the ring system comprising ring B, together with the
ring containing Z and the nitrogen atom, contains more
than ten ring atoms;

wherein ring B has up to 3 substituents selected
20 independently from J;

J is halogen, -OR', -NO₂, -CF₃, -OCF₃, -R', oxo, -
OR', -O-benzyl, -O-phenyl, 1,2-methylenedioxy, 1,2-
ethylenedioxy, -N(R')₂, -SR', -SOR', -SO₂R', -C(O)R', -

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COOR' or -CON(R')₂, wherein R' is independently selected from:

- hydrogen,
(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
5 (C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,
(C1-C12)-aliphatic-
[(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],
(C6-C10)-aryl,
(C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,
10 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,
(C6-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,
(C5-C10)-heteroaryl, or
(C5-C10)-heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic;
R₁ and R₃ are independently:
15 (C1-C12)-aliphatic,
(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,
(C1-C12)-aliphatic-
[(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],
(C6-C10)-aryl,
20 (C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,
(C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,
(C6-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,
(C5-C10)-heteroaryl, or
(C5-C10)-heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
25 wherein each of R₁ and R₃ is independently and
optionally substituted with up to 3
substituents independently selected from J;
wherein up to 3 aliphatic carbon atoms in R₁ and
R₃ may be replaced by a heteroatom selected from
30 O, NH, S, SO, or SO₂ in a chemically stable
arrangement;
R₂ and R₄ are independently

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hydrogen,

(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic, or

(C6-C10)aryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,

5 wherein each of R_2 and R_4 is independently and optionally substituted with up to 3

substituents independently selected from J;

wherein up to two aliphatic carbon atoms in R_2 and R_4 may be replaced by a heteroatom selected

10 from O, NH, S, SO, or SO₂ in a chemically stable arrangement;

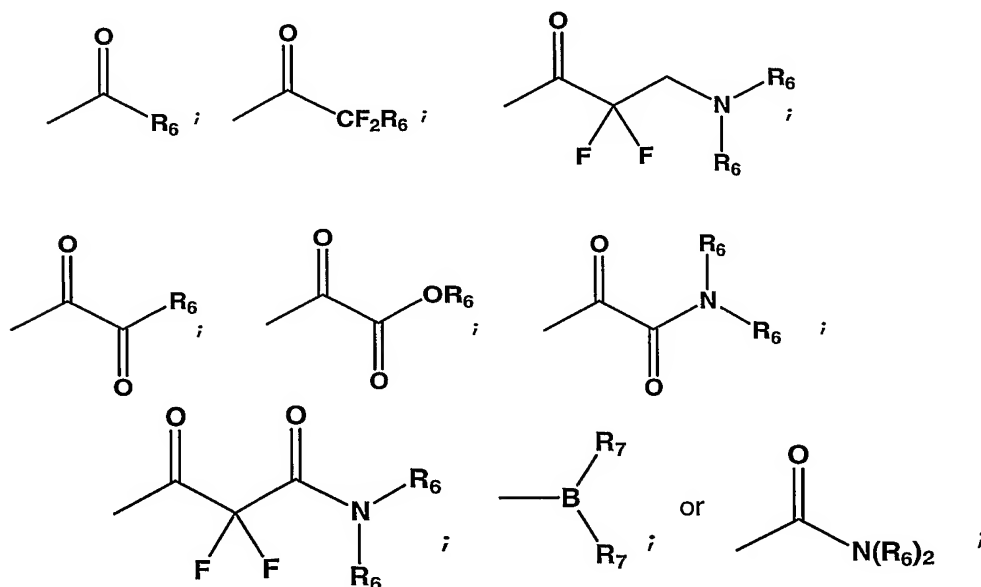
Z is a carbon atom, -CHR-N-, -HN-CR- or -CHR-CHR-,

-O-CHR, -S-CHR, -SO-CHR, -SO₂-CHR, or -N-;

wherein R is aliphatic, aryl, aralkyl or cycloalkyl;

15 R_5 is -(C1-C12) aliphatic, wherein any hydrogen is optionally substituted with halogen, and wherein any hydrogen or halogen atom bound to any terminal carbon atom of R_5 is optionally substituted with sulfhydryl or hydroxy;

20 W is selected from: -C(O)OH;



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wherein each R_6 is independently:

hydrogen,
 (C1-C12)-aliphatic,
 5 (C1-C12)-aliphatic-
 [(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],
 (C6-C10)-aryl,
 (C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,
 (C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,
 10 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,
 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
 (C5-C10)heteroaryl, or
 (C5-C10)heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic, or
 two R_6 groups, which are bound to the same nitrogen
 15 atom, form together with that nitrogen atom, a (C3-C10)-
 heterocyclic ring;

wherein R_6 is optionally substituted with up to 3 J
 substituents;

each R_7 is hydroxy, alkoxy, or aryloxy; or
 20 each R_7 is an oxygen atom linked to an aliphatic
 group and, together with the boron to which they are each
 bound, the two R_7 groups form a 3-6 membered ring;

V is a bond, $-\text{CH}(R_8)-$, $-\text{N}(R_8)-$, $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{O}-\text{CH}(R_8)$,
 $-\text{CH}(R_8)-\text{O}-$, $-\text{S}-$, $-\text{S}-\text{CH}(R_8)-$, $-\text{CH}(R_8)-\text{S}-$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})-$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{O}-$,
 25 $-\text{O}-\text{C}(\text{O})-$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{S}-$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{CHR}_8-$, $-\text{CHR}_8-\text{C}(\text{O})-$, $-\text{N}(R_8)\text{C}(\text{O})-$,
 $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{N}(R_8)-$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})-$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})-\text{CH}(R_8)$, $-\text{CH}(R_8)-\text{S}(\text{O})-$,
 $-\text{S}(\text{O})\text{N}(R_8)-$, $-\text{N}(R_8)\text{S}(\text{O})-$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})-\text{N}(R_8)-\text{CHR}_8$, $-\text{N}(R_8)-\text{S}(\text{O})-$
 CHR_8- , $-\text{CHR}_8-\text{S}(\text{O})_2$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2-\text{CH}(R_8)-$, $-\text{CH}(R_8)-\text{S}(\text{O})_2-$,
 $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2\text{N}(R_8)-$, $-\text{N}(R_8)-\text{S}(\text{O})_2-$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2-\text{N}(R_8)-\text{CHR}_8$ or $-\text{N}(R_8)-$
 30 $\text{S}(\text{O})_2-\text{CHR}_8$;

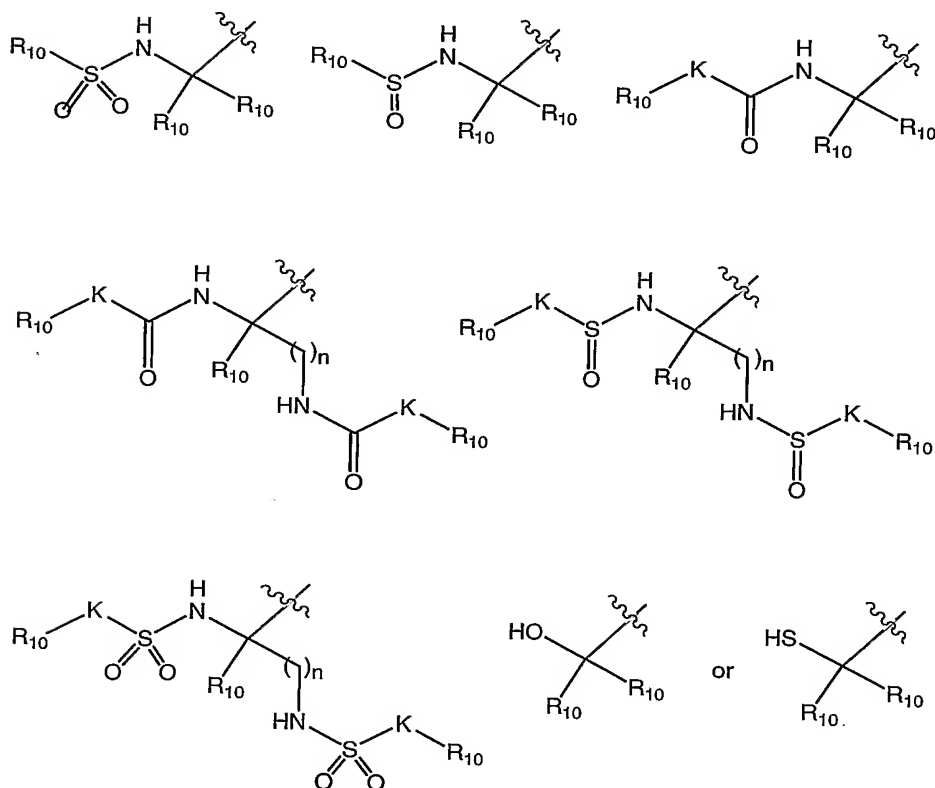
wherein R_8 is hydrogen or (C1-C12)-aliphatic;

T is selected from:

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(C6-C10)-aryl,
 (C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,
 (C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,
 (C1-C12)-aliphatic-
 5 [(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],
 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,
 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
 (C5-C10)heteroaryl, or
 (C5-C10)heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic; or

10 T is selected from:



wherein:

R₁₀ is:

15 hydrogen,
 (C1-C12)-aliphatic,

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(C1-C12)-aliphatic-
 [(C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl],
 (C6-C10)-aryl,
 (C6-C10)-aryl-(C1-C12)aliphatic,
 5 (C3-C10)-cycloalkyl or -cycloalkenyl,
 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl,
 (C3-C10)-heterocyclyl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
 (C5-C10)-heteroaryl, or
 (C5-C10)-heteroaryl-(C1-C12)-aliphatic,
 10 wherein each T is optionally substituted with up to
 3 J substituents;
 K is a bond, (C1-C12)-aliphatic, -O-, -S-, -NR₉-, -
 C(O)-, or -C(O)-NR₉-, wherein R₉ is hydrogen or (C1-C12)-
 aliphatic; and
 15 n is 1-3.

5. The compound according to any one of claims
 1-4, wherein:

20 R₅ is -(C2-C7)alkyl optionally substituted with
 halogen;

R₂ and R₄ are independently (C1-C12)-aliphatic;
 R₃ and R₁ are independently -(C1-C10)alkyl,
 -(C3-C7)cycloalkyl, or -((C1-C6)alkyl)-((C3-
 C7)cycloalkyl);

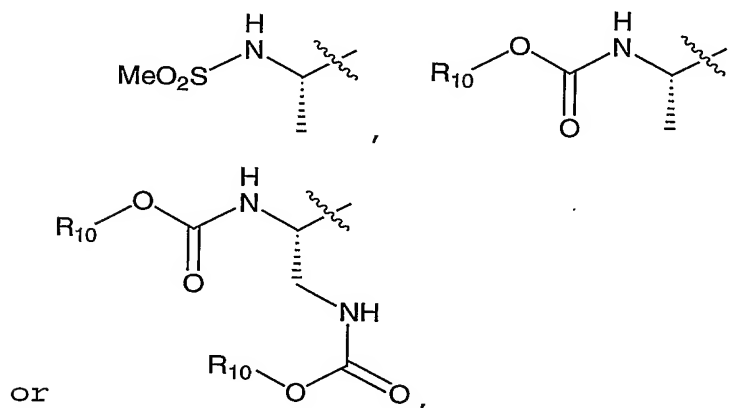
25 V is a bond, -CH(R₈)-, -N(R₈)-, -O-, -O-CH(R₈), -S-,
 -S-CH(R₈), -C(O)-, -C(O)-O-, -C(O)-S-, -C(O)-CHR₈-,
 -C(O)N(R₈)-, -S(O)-, -S(O)-CH(R₈)-, -S(O)N(R₈)-,
 -S(O)-N(R₈)-CHR₈, -S(O)₂, -S-(O)₂-CH(R₈)-, -S(O)₂N(R₈)-, or
 -S(O)₂-N(R₈)-CHR₈;

30 wherein R₈ is hydrogen or -(C1-C3)alkyl;

T is -(C6-C10)aryl, -(C5-C10)heteroaryl,
 -(C3-C6)cycloalkyl, -(C3-C10)heterocyclyl, -(C1-C6)alkyl-

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(C6-C10) aryl, - (C1-C6) alkyl- (C5-C10) heteroaryl,
 - (C1-C6) alkyl- (C3-C6) cycloalkyl, - (C1-C6) alkyl-
 (C3-C10) heterocyclyl, - (C2-C6) alkenyl- (C6-C10) aryl,
 - (C2-C6) alkenyl- (C5-C10) heteroaryl, - (C2-C6) alkenyl-
 5 (C3-C6) cycloalkyl, - (C2-C6) alkenyl- (C3-C10) heterocyclyl,



wherein:

R₁₀ is - (C1-C4) alkyl;

10 W is -C(O)OH, -C(O)-C(O)-R₆, or -C(O)-C(O)-NH(R₆)
 wherein:

R₆ is - (C1-C6) alkyl, - (C6-C10) aryl,
 - (C3-C6) cycloalkyl, - (C5-C10) heteroaryl,
 - (C3-C10) heterocyclyl, -NH- ((C1-C6) alkyl),
 15 -NH- ((C3-C6) cycloalkyl), -NH-CH(CH₃)-aryl, -NH-CH(CH₃)-
 (C5-C10) heteroaryl or -NH-CH(CH₃)- (C3-C10) heterocyclyl,
 wherein said aryl, heteroaryl, or heterocyclyl is
 optionally substituted with a suitable electron
 withdrawing group.

20

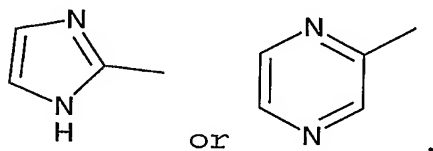
6. The compound according to claim 5, wherein V is
 -NH-.

7. The compound according to claim 5, wherein V is
 25 -C(O)-.

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8. The compound according to claim 5, wherein T is a -(C5-C10)heteroaryl.

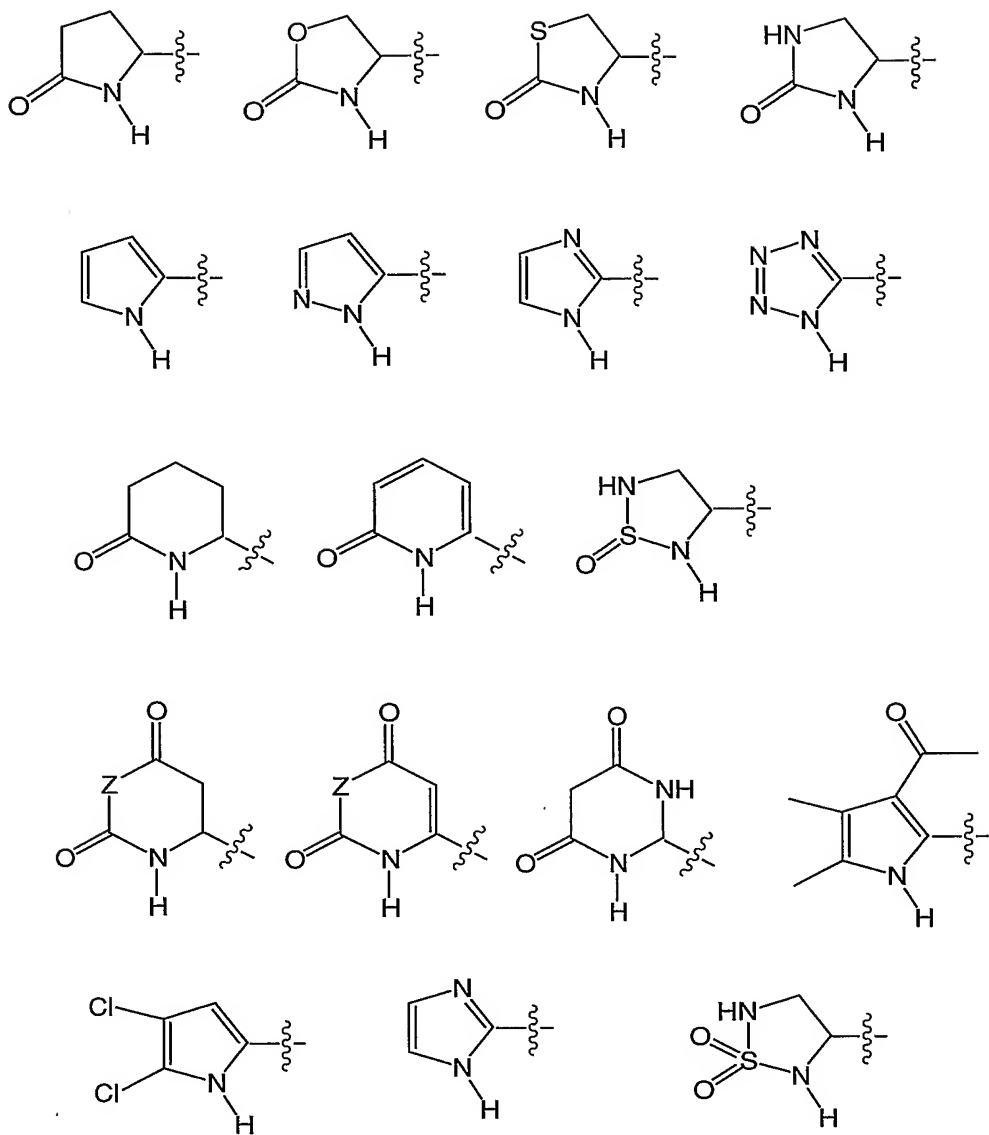
5 9. The compound according to claim 8, wherein T is:



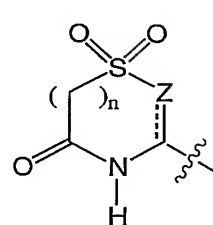
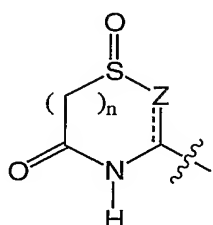
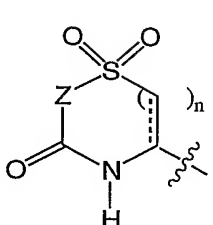
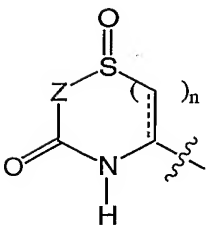
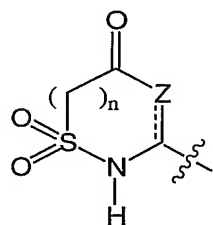
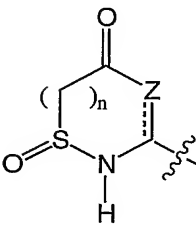
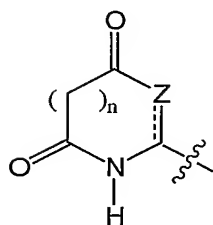
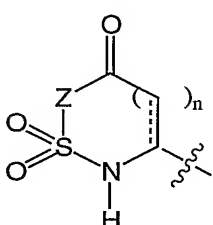
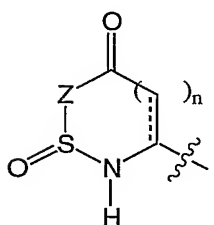
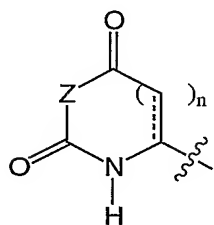
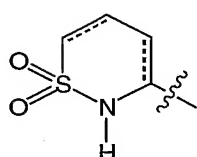
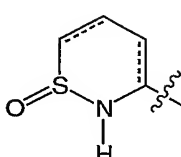
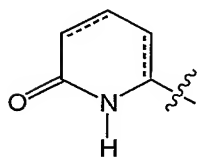
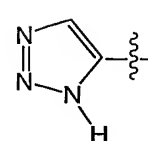
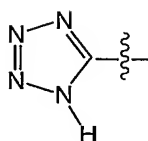
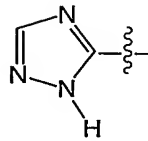
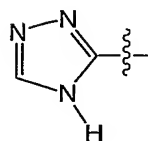
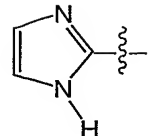
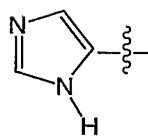
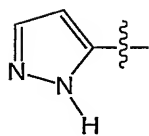
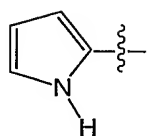
10 10. The compound according to claim 5, wherein T contains at least one hydrogen bond donor moiety selected from -NH₂, -NH-, -OH, and -SH.

11. The compound according to claim 10, wherein T is:

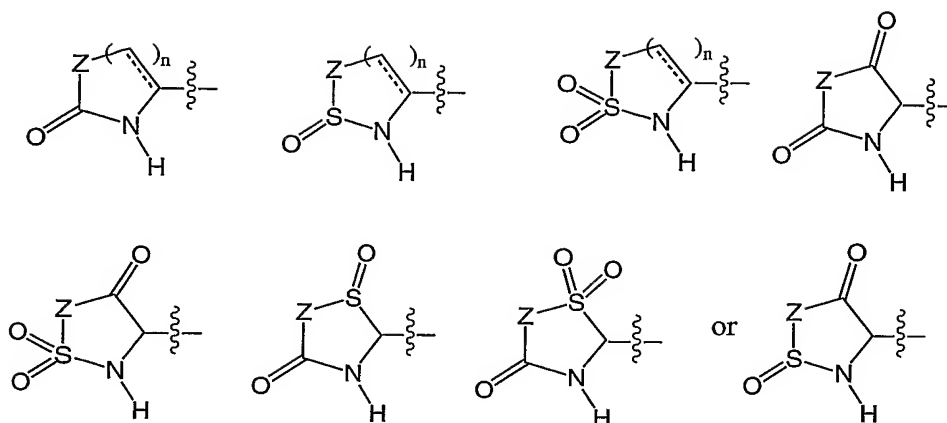
- 161 -



- 162 -



- 163 -

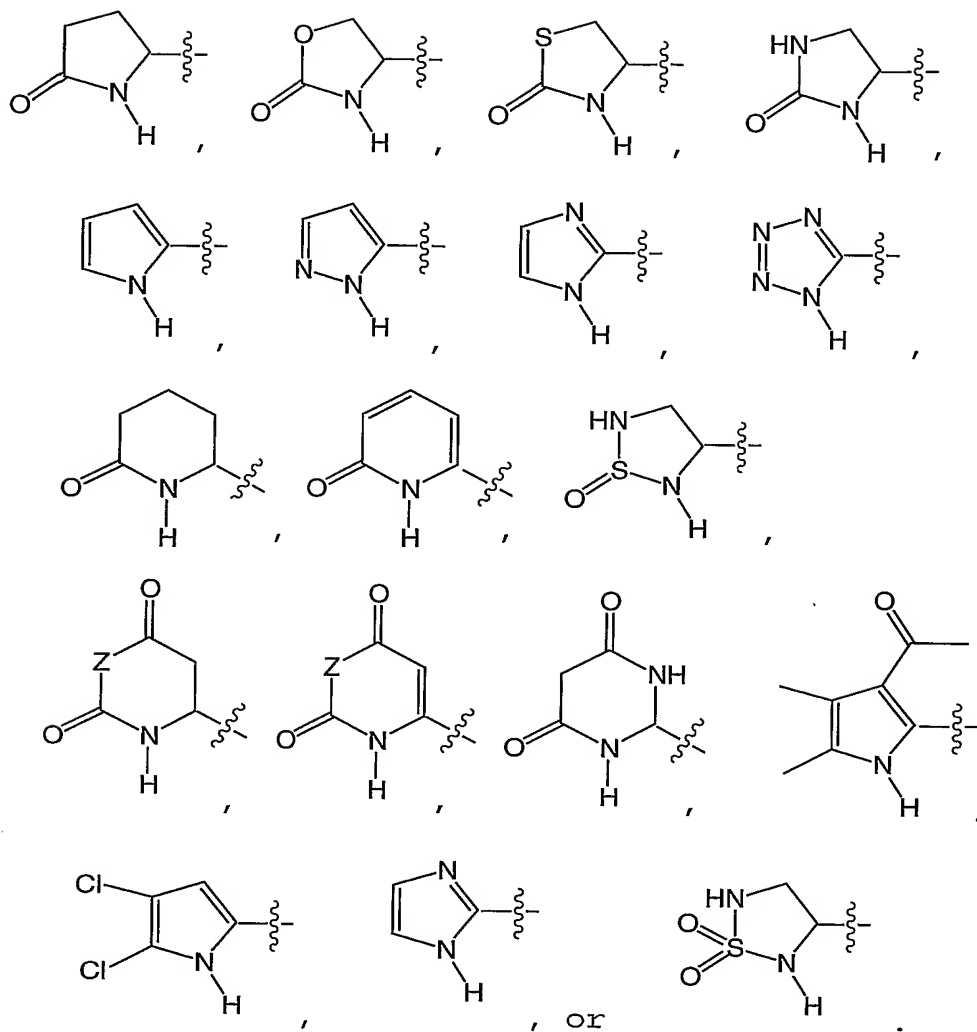


wherein:

- T is optionally substituted with up to 3 J
 5 substituents, wherein J is as defined in claim 1;
 Z is independently O, S, NR₁₀, or C(R₁₀)₂;
 n is independently 1 or 2; and
 ----- is independently a single bond or a double bond.

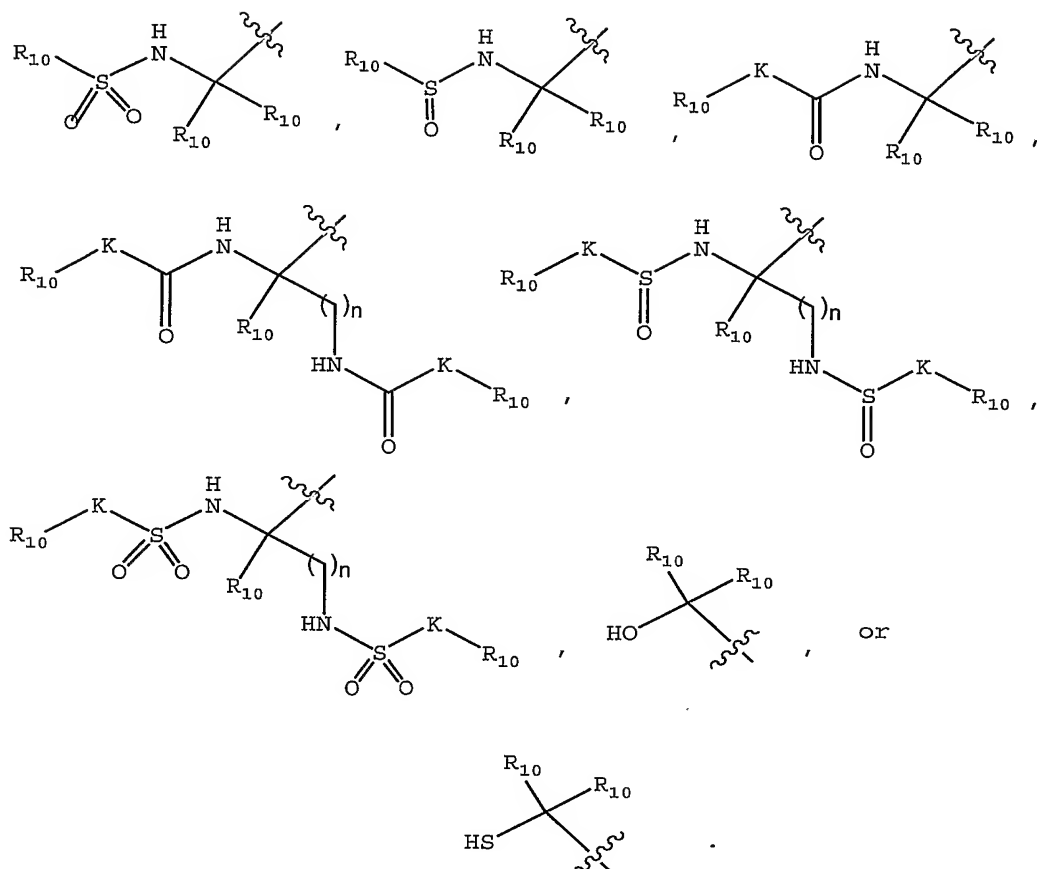
- 10 12. The compound according to claim 11, wherein T
 is:

- 164 -

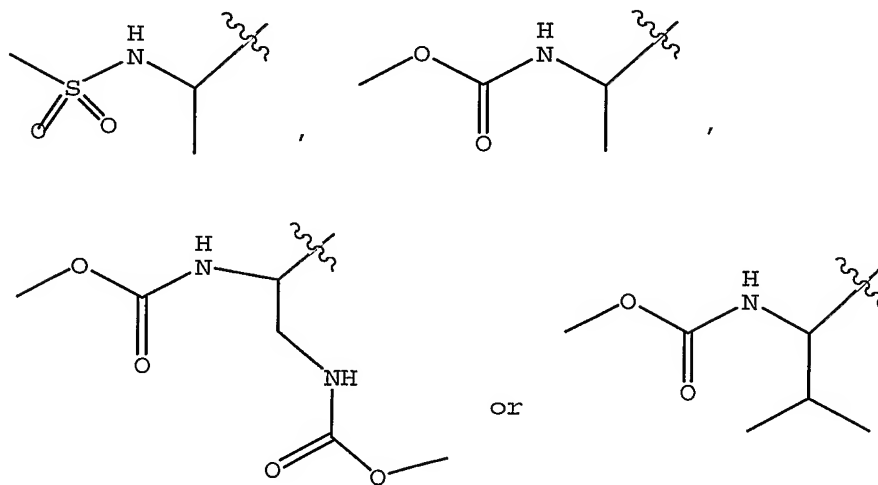


13. The compound according to claim 5, wherein T is:

- 165 -

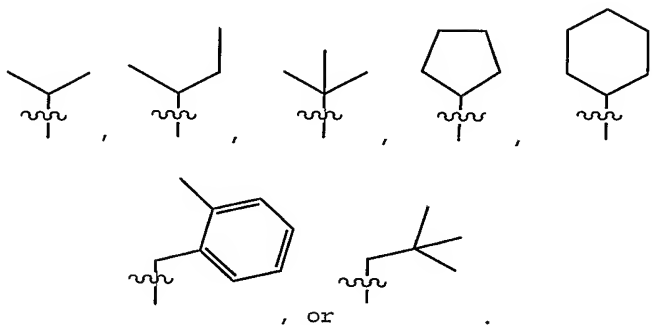


14. The compound according to claim 13, wherein T is:



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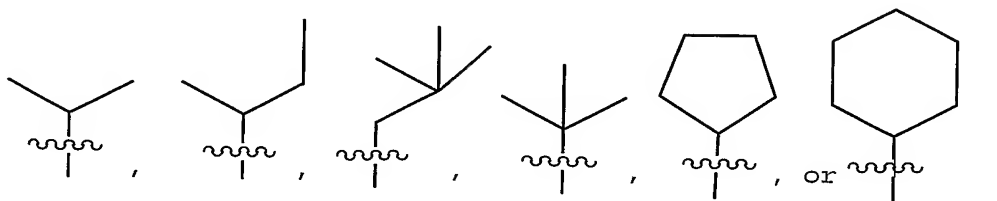
15. The compound according to claim 5, wherein R_1 is:



16. The compound according to claim 15, wherein R_1 is $-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$, $-\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$, $-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$, $-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_3$, or cyclohexyl.

17. The compound according to claim 16, wherein R_1 is cyclohexyl.

18. The compound according to claim 5, wherein R_3 is:

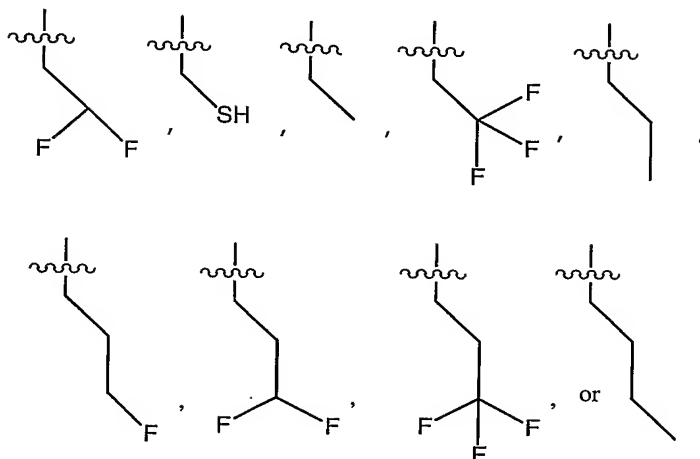


19. The compound according to claim 18, wherein R_3 is $-\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_2$, $-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$, $-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_3$, or cyclohexyl.

20. The compound according to claim 19, wherein R_3 is $-\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$ or $-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$.

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21. The compound according to claim 5,
wherein R_5 is:



5

22. The compound according to claim 21, wherein R_5 is $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{F}$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CHF}_2$, or $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CF}_3$.

10 23. The compound according to claim 22, wherein R_5 is $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ or $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CHF}_2$.

24. The compound according to claim 23, wherein R_5 is $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$.

15

25. The compound according to claim 5, wherein R_2 and R_4 are each independently H, methyl, ethyl, or propyl.

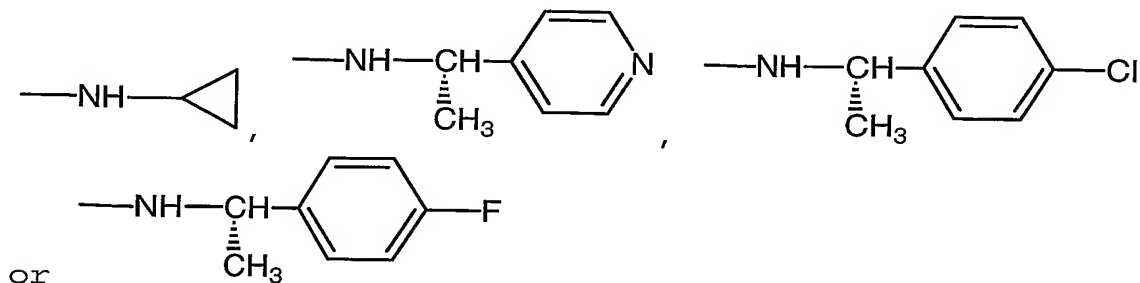
26. The compound according to claim 5, wherein W is
20 $\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{NH}(\text{R}_6)$.

27. The compound according to claim 26, wherein in the W, the $-\text{NH}(\text{R}_6)$ is $-\text{NH}-(\text{C}_3-\text{C}_6 \text{ cycloalkyl})$, $-\text{NH}-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)-$

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aryl, or $\text{-NH-CH(CH}_3\text{)-heterocyclyl}$, wherein said aryl or said heterocyclyl is optionally substituted with halogen.

28. The compound according to claim 27, wherein in
5 the W, the $\text{NH(R}_6\text{)}$ is:



10 29. A composition comprising a compound according to any one of claims 1-4 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, derivative or prodrug thereof in an amount effective to inhibit a serine protease; and a acceptable carrier, adjuvant or vehicle.

15 30. The composition according to claim 29, wherein said composition is formulated for administration to a patient.

20 31. The composition according to claim 30, wherein said composition comprises an additional agent selected from an immunomodulatory agent; an antiviral agent; a second inhibitor of HCV protease; an inhibitor of another target in the HCV life cycle; or combinations thereof.

25 32. The composition according to claim 31, wherein said immunomodulatory agent is α -, β -, or γ -interferon; the antiviral agent is ribavirin or amantadine; or the

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inhibitor of another target in the HCV life cycle is an inhibitor of HCV helicase, polymerase, or metalloprotease.

5 33. A method of inhibiting the activity of a serine protease comprising the step of contacting said serine protease with a compound according to any one of claims 1-4.

10 34. The method according to claim 33, wherein said protease is an HCV NS3 protease.

 35. A method of treating an HCV infection in a patient comprising the step of administering to said patient a composition according to claim 30.

15 36. The method according to claim 34, comprising the additional step of administering to said patient an additional agent selected from an immunomodulatory agent; an antiviral agent; a second inhibitor of HCV protease; an inhibitor of another target in the HCV life cycle; or combinations thereof; wherein said additional agent is
20 administered to said patient as part of said composition according to claim 30 or as a separate dosage form.

 37. The method according to claim 36, wherein said immunomodulatory agent is α -, β -, or γ -interferon; said antiviral agent is ribavirin or amantadine; or said
25 inhibitor of another target in the HCV life cycle is an inhibitor of HCV helicase, polymerase, or metalloprotease.

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38. A method of eliminating or reducing HCV
contamination of a biological sample or medical or
laboratory equipment, comprising the step of contacting
said biological sample or medical or laboratory equipment
5 with a composition according to claim 29.

39. The method according to claim 38, wherein said
sample or equipment is selected from blood, other body
fluids, biological tissue, a surgical instrument, a
surgical garment, a laboratory instrument, a laboratory
10 garment, a blood or other body fluid collection
apparatus; a blood or other bodily fluid storage
material.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 02/34248

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 A61K31/403 A61K31/497 A61P31/12 C07D403/12 C07K5/103

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 C07D A61K A61P

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, BEILSTEIN Data, CHEM ABS Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P,X	WO 02 08244 A (SCHERING CORP ;CORVAS INT INC (US)) 31 January 2002 (2002-01-31) claims 1,27,30 ---	4-39
A	WO 01 74768 A (VERTEX PHARMA ;COURT JOHN (US); MALLEY ETHAN O (US); PERNI ROBERT) 11 October 2001 (2001-10-11) claims 1,20 -----	1-39

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

E earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

& document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

20 December 2002

Date of mailing of the international search report

15/01/2003

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Authorized officer

Johnson, C

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US 02/34248

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 4-39 (part)
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☒ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-3, 4-39 (part)

Compounds wherein the N-containing ring is fused to at least 2 further rings (i.e. the ring system is tricyclic or higher polycyclic), their compositions and uses. Special technical feature compared with e.g. WO 01/74768 is the tricyclic or higher polycyclic ring system.

2. Claims: 4-39 (part)

Compounds wherein the N-containing ring is fused to one further ring (i.e. the ring system is bicyclic), their compositions and uses.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Claims Nos.: 4-39 (part)

Claim 4 lacks clarity (Article 6 PCT) because of the definition of ring B. It appears that ring B may either be a bridged bicyclic ring system containing 6-12 carbon atoms or it may be a monocyclic ring system wherein the bicyclic ring system formed between ring B and the N-containing ring contains more than 10 ring atoms. However, in the description on p. 84 there are many ring systems defined which do not fulfil either of these criteria (see e.g. the first formula on p. 84, in which the B ring is a monocyclic ring system wherein the bicyclic ring system formed between ring B and the N-containing ring contains only 8 ring atoms). This contradiction between the claims and the description makes the 2nd definition of ring B in claim 4 unclear. Furthermore, the majority of the preferred embodiments of ring B on pp. 84-85 are 5- or 6-membered rings which are fused to a further (non-bridged) ring system. This possibility does not appear to be clearly and unambiguously defined in claim 4: presumably it is intended to be covered by the 2nd definition of B, wherein "the ring system comprising ring B, together with the ring containing Z and the nitrogen atom, contains more than ten ring atoms". However, it is not at all clear from this definition that "ring B" may in fact be a polycyclic system. In view of this lack of clarity, claim 4 has only been searched insofar as the first definition for ring B applies (i.e. ring B is a bridged bicyclic system). It should be noted that the other possibility, even if it were made clear, would include bicyclic compounds which would lack unity with the tricyclic or higher polycyclic compounds of claims 1-3 and 4 (part).

In claim 5, R6 may be substituted by "a suitable electron withdrawing group". However, no criteria appear to be given either in the claims or description for assessing the suitability of an electron withdrawing group. This definition has therefore been disregarded due to lack of clarity.

In claim 29 the composition contains a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative or prodrug of the compound of claims 1-4. In the description p. 118 mention is made of modifying the compounds by "appending appropriate functionalities", but no structural information is given. As it is not clear for which pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives or prodrugs protection is sought, these terms have been disregarded.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 02/34248

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
WO 0208244	A	31-01-2002	AU	7698801 A		05-02-2002
			WO	0208244 A2		31-01-2002
WO 0174768	A	11-10-2001	AU	5116501 A		15-10-2001
			WO	0174768 A2		11-10-2001